



COUNCILS UNITE OVER TRAVELLERS

Report by Judith Hawkins

A SURGE in the number of traveller camps across the Black Country has prompted councils to set up a meeting to discuss the problem.

As the number of travellers in the area rises this summer, so too are reports from residents and businesses about anti-social behaviour, crime and mess left behind by travellers.

It has prompted a joint meeting of Black Country authorities, led by Sandwell Council who have put the annual cost of dealing with illegal encampments as in the region of £250,000.

Nick Bubalo, the council's director for regeneration and economy, said: "Sandwell are in the process of co-ordinating a joint Black Country meeting between respective councils and police chiefs to look more strategically at how we can deal with this growing issue."

"The council is looking at the legislation to see where a more targeted approach can be taken in relation to the worst offenders."

Mr Bubalo also confirmed that the council has established a monthly working group with the police to respond to the growing concerns raised by the public.

He added that the council is working closely with West Midlands Police.

Concerns

But there are concerns at the police's response. Dudley Council's Halesowen North representative Councillor Hilary Bills said: "There's been a little bit of inconsistency with the police this year, because there's something called a section 61 of the criminal code, which is actually a forced entry. Last year we were told, make your parks and green spaces secure, so that if they have to perform a criminal act to break in, the police will have something called a section 61 and then they have 24 hours to go."

"My experience in my own ward is we've had two incursions, on both occasions the travellers had to commit a crime to get in, and on neither occasion did police use a section 61. Regular people, law-abiding people, do not understand why other people can come into our community, break the laws, and nothing happens."

West Midlands Police communications manager Lee Page said: "There seems to be a misconception that the police have the power to immediately close down these camps and move people on, but in reality the process is controlled by law. Despite the best efforts of police and councils, and our desire to secure swift vacation of the land, this process can sometimes take up to a week if we have to go to court."

Superintendent Phil Dolby said: "West Midlands Police has a positive duty to serve all communities in a fair and equitable way. Our officers and staff need to strike a balance between the rights of the individual and the rights of the settled community when dealing with gypsies and travellers."

SCULPTOR LUKE IS AIMING TO INSPIRE STUDENTS



Sign of the times – Luke Perry working on the new sculpture for King Edward VI College at his Cradley Heath workshop

A CELEBRATED Black Country sculptor has created a work to say thank you to the college where he developed his talents.

Luke Perry is well known for his striking pieces that celebrate the industrial heritage of the region but his latest is also inspired by his time studying at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge.

The 33-year-old artist attended the college between 2000 and 2003 and still has a personal link as his wife Natalie works as an art technician there. So when asked to produce a centrepiece for the college grounds, working

with current students, Luke jumped at the chance and has been working on the design of the sculpture, which is due to be installed this week, since June.

He said: "This has been a very personal job, and it is great to put a sculpture in a place that will be used by students and become part of the old King Edwards but also the new."

Inspired by the architecture of the historic college, which was founded in 1552, Luke has created a piece that he says draws upon, and parodies, the neo-Gothic.

He said: "It is two stone octagons placed

on top of each other, similar to a cenotaph, and then projecting from that is a cast iron and steel fabricated piece, which represents a moral compass. All around it there are signposts and quotes from literature and film."

The quotes include 'I am the master of my fate' from the poem Invictus, to advice offered in blockbuster Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade 'You lost today, kid, but that doesn't mean you have to like it'. The work has also reunited Luke with his former English teacher Rosie Shale, who helped him and the students find the inspirational quotes.

DEVELOPMENT

Houses to be built on former pub site

HOUSES will be built on the site of a former Halesowen landmark pub.

Work has begun clearing the old Wagon and Horses site, in Long Lane, which was demolished two years ago.

Halesowen-based estate agents Lex Allan Grove confirmed that sale boards had now been erected for the nine new builds.

A spokesperson said: "The houses will have three bedrooms but it is not certain whether they will be detached or semi-detached yet."

"Our guide price for them will be from £192,000 to £220,000."

POLICE

Teenager in death probe freed on bail

A FOURTH teenager who was arrested over the murder of father-of-two Simon Johnson in Netherton has been released on bail. The 18-year-old was quizzed by officers after being arrested on Tuesday last week.

Police said the teenager had been released pending further inquiries. Three others, two aged 15 and one 18 have already been released on bail.

Mr Johnson was found stabbed to death at a house in Cradley Road on August 11.

CRIME

Pensioners warned over roofing scam

FRAUDSTERS have been sending out fake flyers offering non-existent roofing subsidies for pensioners.

Dudley Council is warning residents about official looking leaflets that have been distributed across the borough. They claim that subsidies of up to 40 per cent are available to pensioners.

The con promotes 'roof coating' work as an alternative to re-roofing and claim to make roofs 'maintenance free' for up to 20 years. Similar claims have been investigated by Trading Standards and found to be fraudulent. For more information, call trading standards on (01384) 812045.

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Three die in weekend of horror on roads



Tributes to MJ on Keats Road

A MAN and two children have died after a weekend of horror crashes in the Black Country.

A four-month-old baby girl and a three-year-old boy were among the victims as tragedy struck in three separate crashes, one of which closed the M6 until Monday morning.

In the first incident, a four-month-old girl died following a collision on the Birmingham Road in Walsall. The crash, close to The Bell pub, happened at 8.50pm on Friday. It involved a Ford Focus and a blue BMW 1 Series.

The baby, travelling in the red Ford Focus, was pronounced dead at the scene, while several other people were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The road was closed for several hours while emergency services and collision investigators worked to clear the area and carry out inquiries to try and establish what happened.

Sergeant Chris Ridge from the collision investigation unit, said: "A young baby has tragically died, this is devastating for her family and our thoughts

remain with them at this difficult time. We would still like to hear from anyone who saw what happened and has not yet spoken to an officer."

On Saturday afternoon a three-year-old boy was killed after a collision with a tipper van in Wolverhampton. Matthew Junior Rowland George Maybin, known as MJ, was pronounced dead at the scene in Keats Road, The Scotlands.

On Sunday Telford father-of-two Anthony Marston, 54, died after a crash between a lorry, car and van on the M6 at Walsall at around 3pm.

Students celebrating A-level results success

AS A-level students across Dudley celebrated some record results, one teenager had extra reason to jump for joy when he saw his grades.

Dudley Sixth student Kulbir Singh didn't speak English until the age of 15, having come to the UK from Italy. But the 18-year-old has scored an impressive four A*s in mathematics, chemistry, further mathematics and physics.

Kulbir, who studied a one-year ESOL course (English for Speakers of other Languages) before his A-levels, will now take up his place at Brasenose College, Oxford, to read physics.

He said: "I liked maths and physics before I came to Dudley Sixth, now I love them. My tutor's shared my passion for the subjects and really motivated me to do well. It's such a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in which to study that I always felt happy to come to college."

Ambition

"My ambition is to go on and get a first at Oxford. Dudley Sixth has helped me believe anything's possible if you work for it."

Kulbir, who lives in Smethwick, was not the only one celebrating at the college as the number of students achieving higher grades rose and 30 out of 37 subjects received a pass rate of 100 per cent.

Elsewhere in the borough, Old Swinford Hospital in Stourbridge recorded a 100 per cent pass rate across 23 subjects. High-flyers included Budd Crooks, from Worcester, who gained straight A*s, and Nat Slater, from Kingswinford, with one A* and two A grades. Both students will continue their education at the University of Bath, studying natural sciences.

Stourbridge boys Oliver Mann, who achieved straight As, and Cameron Harrison, who achieved A*,A,B, are to study in London, at the London School of Economics and Political Sci-



Successful Halesowen College students Emma Rolinson, aged 18, Adam Higgins, 18, and Amy Nock, 20 since and University College London respectively.

At Bishop Milner Catholic College in Dudley, 43 per cent of students picked up A* to B Grades and 69 per cent A* to C Grades with the overall pass rate at 99.3 per cent.

Head Girl Alannah Joy found out she had one Distinction*, three As and a C, Theo Kacoulli achieved an A*, two Distinction* and a B, while Matthew Timmins collected three Distinction* grades.

Principal Steve Haywood said: "We are delighted to see so many successful

performances and wish all students a bright and happy future."

An overall pass rate of 99 per cent was recorded at Halesowen College with all students gaining at least one A-level. Among the high performers was Emma Rolinson who picked up A*s in sociology and psychology and an A in English Literature while Adam Higgins achieved three As in biology.

Bristnall Hall Academy in Oldbury celebrated improved A-level results with 100 per cent of pupils gaining two or more passes, up seven per cent

from last year, and 80 per cent achieving three or more A-level passes. The proportion of higher grades achieved was also significantly higher than in previous years with 78 per cent of grades being at A* to C.

Principal Vince Green said: "This year's strong outcomes for our young people are thoroughly deserved after the efforts of these students and the team of staff."

Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath had 63 per cent earning three or more passes, a four per cent increase on last year.

Heather the life-saver has won St John award

A YOUTH leader has been named St John Ambulance's Volunteer of the Year for the West Midlands.

Heather Griffiths, aged 34, from Halesowen, has been honoured by the first aid charity. The Volunteer of the Year title is awarded to a St John Ambulance volunteer who has 'excelled at learning, teaching, practising or supporting first aid to an exemplary level'.

Heather, a young persons' service lead at the St John Ambulance unit in Halesowen, was nominated for the award after saving the life of a stranger in Brierley Hill last August.

A volunteer with the first aid charity since the age of six, Heather spotted a man sitting on the pavement, looking pale and very unwell. She stopped to see if he was OK and was told that he had been feeling unwell for weeks, and while she was calling an ambulance, the man collapsed onto the busy road. With the help of bystanders, Heather got him back onto the pavement and put him into the recovery position. He stopped breathing and Heather started CPR. She continued until paramedics arrived and re-started his heart with a defibrillator.

Heather said: "I'm just glad I was there to help, and that my years of training with St John Ambulance prepared me to deal with situations like this."

Steve Hargreaves, regional director for St John Ambulance said: "Heather's story is the very essence of what St John Ambulance is about - ordinary people doing extraordinary things through first aid."

Fuel station in bid to expand

A PETROL station near Stourbridge is set to expand, with more filling pumps and parking spaces to be provided for customers.

The plans for the BP station on Hagley Road, Oldswinford, near to the Crab-mill pub, have been recommended for approval by Dudley Council planning bosses.

Under the plans, a former central heating and plumbing specialists would be knocked down to allow the expansion of the fuel station.

A total of 11 parking spaces would be created by the move while two 80,000 litre underground fuel storage tanks would also be installed.

A final decision is set to be made by the council's planning committee next week.

School reunion for Longlands ex-pupils

FORMER students from Longlands School, in Stourbridge, are holding a reunion for all past pupils.

It will be at The Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge High Street, on September 24, at 7pm. For more details see www.longlandsschool.co.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy on bicycle dies after a collision

A BOY has died after being hit by a bus in Birmingham. The eight-year-old was cycling along Wilton Road, Erdington, at around 3.15pm last Tuesday when the collision happened. Emergency services were called and paramedics treated the boy who was taken to hospital with critical injuries, but he died later that day.

The driver of the bus was spoken to at the scene and officers continue to make inquiries into the crash.

Sgt Chris Ridge, from the force's collision investigation unit, said: "The road is a really busy road and we are sure that there are a number of witnesses who have not yet come forward." Anyone with information should contact the collision investigation unit on 101.

Dismay as cadets' new bus is stolen

THIEVES have stolen a minibus Kingswinford air cadets worked for, just three weeks after it was bought.

After spending four years raising £15,000 to buy the much-needed vehicle, The Kingswinford 2488 Squadron Air Training Corps were devastated to discover that the 17-seater Ford Transit had been stolen from their headquarters behind the Standhills Road Medical Centre.

Without the bus the squadron may have to cancel activities, including taking part in parade, until they can raise funds for another bus.

"The cadets are gutted," said supporters committee chairman Mark Manning.

Future is bright on canal towpaths

NEW lights are to be installed along canal towpaths across Birmingham as part of a £250,000 project to brighten up the waterways. Some 250 worn out and broken lights will be replaced with new energy efficient LED bulbs.

The scheme, which is being run by the Canal & River Trust and Birmingham City Council, is part of a drive to increase cycling. John Harris, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "These lights were originally installed in the early 1980s and most of them now don't work very well or are broken. The new, low maintenance lights should last eight years before the bulbs need to be replaced."

Gujarati delegation in investment visit

A DELEGATION from Gujarat toured Birmingham to promote India's westernmost state as an investment destination and to learn more about the West Midlands region.

The group of 15 Gujarati business leaders from backgrounds including financial services, life sciences and advanced manufacturing, explored key attractions and areas in Birmingham such as the Jewellery Quarter, Digbeth and Snowhill and found out about the city's key business sectors.

Prison after bungling bank robber really slips up

A CROOK who backed a loser when he tried to rob a bank armed with a betting slip, has begun a lengthy prison sentence.

Jason Philips scribbled a warning on the back of the slip when he claimed to have a nail bomb and gun. The 35-year-old passed the note over the counter to a member of staff at Lloyds Bank in High Street, Sedgley, after waiting until there were no other customers around.

Miss Sally Hancox, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that the move backfired when the teller showed the message to the other cashiers on duty. They all followed the security procedure, stood up and walked into a rear office, leaving the hapless robber alone and empty-handed.

Philips, from Hunton Road, Erdington, was 'off his head' on cocaine, the court heard.

Police shown CCTV of the incident recognised the culprit who had previous convictions involving 172 offences and he was arrested in Kidderminster on July 20. His fingerprints were found on the betting slip and a carrier bag he left at the bank.

Mr Gareth Morley, defending, said: "He accepts that his behaviour caused shock, distress and fear but it was doomed to fail."

Philips, who had been jailed in February 2012 for robberies on supermarkets in Wombourne, Wordsley and Sedgley, pleaded guilty to the attempted robbery at the bank and was jailed for three years and four months.

Court date for robbery accused

STAFF at a bookmakers near Stourbridge were threatened with a shotgun during a terrifying raid, one of a spate of robberies or attempted robberies.

The first attack occurred when a man burst into William Hill in Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, armed with a double-barrelled shotgun at around 9pm on August 12. A Sainsbury's Local nearby was then robbed an hour later. On August 15, there was an attempted robbery at William Hill in Brettle Lane, Amblecote.

Michael Webb, 37, of Kingsway, Stourbridge, appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court in connection with the robbery spree. He has yet to enter a plea and is to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on September 15.

85pc of firm's flights on time

BUDGET airline Ryanair, which operates at Birmingham Airport, said that 85 per cent of its 62,000 flights in July arrived on time. It was down from 90 per cent last July, due to air traffic control issues and bad weather.

Rep returns with Joe Orton farce

FOLLOWING on from its successful finale – The 39 Steps – for its 77th season, Oldbury Rep starts up anew kicking off with a Joe Orton play.

What the Butler Saw will mark the start of the 78th season from September 10-17, set in a doctors surgery, it is a traditional farce, with a difference.

This is followed by the classic tale of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, in an atmospheric and chilling production running from November 5-12.

January sees the ever-popular traditional panto take over the theatre when Dick Whittington strolls into town looking for streets paved with gold but only finds the evil King Rat. This runs from January 6-16. People are advised to book early for this production as tickets soon sell out.

The rep's spring 2017 production is Confusions by Alan Ayckbourn. Five short plays are linked by a common theme of human emotions and dilemmas in a brilliant piece of theatre by a master playwright and can be seen on stage from March 4-11.

This is followed by Anthony Shaffer's classic whodunit, Sleuth. The production runs from May 6-13. Meanwhile, the season finale is Charley's Aunt, a truly classic farce of love, deception and mistaken identity by Brandon Thomas, running from July 8-15.

Theatre ticket prices will remain unchanged for the season and following extensive refurbishment of the studio/rehearsal room, Studio Productions is making a welcome return.

The first production is The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband by Debbie Isitt, a little confection for those who like their humour rich and black, and will be served up from October 5-10.

Tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm, and on the Friday prior to opening night from 7.30pm, and every night of the production from 7.00pm. Tickets are priced at £10.00 with the usual concessions at £9.00 with a special price on Monday and Tuesday evenings of £8.00 (no concessions). Panto prices are £11.00 (£10.00). Studio productions are £8.00 and Cinema tickets are just £4.00. Box Office can be contacted on 0121 552 2761. And you can now book online at www.oldburyrep.org

Developer quits homes scheme at school site

PLANS to transform the site of a former school and college campus in Stourbridge with new homes have fallen through after the preferred developers pulled out.

Cameron Homes, who were chosen as the developers of the former Longlands School, have confirmed that they will not go ahead with revamping the site.

Community leaders have described the setback as a blow, but said that they still hoped to see site developed in the future.

The Longlands site was a school between 1912 and 1990 before Stourbridge College took it over as an arts campus.

The land was last used back in 2011 before Stourbridge College relocated its art department to a new campus on Venture Way in Brierley Hill.

There has been concern about vandalism at the site.

Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward councillor Nic Barlow said: "It is unfortunate but it is one of those things."

"There has obviously been a delay in getting the college developed but we will have to wait for the college to work with interested parties to get the development moving."

Cameron Homes and BMet did not wish to comment.

Disappointed

Dudley Council's regeneration boss, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said the developer's decision was a blow but that the local authority would continue to look for a new developer for the site.

He said: "We are disappointed this deal fell through, which was something beyond our control, but have started marketing the site again with immediate effect."

"We share people's frustrations, but rest assured we are working together with BMet and our agent to secure a developer for the site."

Stourbridge MP Margot James had been heavily involved with trying to get the project moving and had called for speedier progress after the scheme was hit by delays.

People living in the area had also called for the site, which has been targeted by vandals, to be brought back into use.

Ms James said BMet bosses would be co-operating with police in a bid to prevent further vandalism at the site.



Nine-time grand slam tennis winner Jordanne Whiley is now revealing her talent as a singer-songwriter

NINE-TIME grand slam wheelchair tennis champion Jordanne Whiley MBE is set to release her first single.

The Halesowen-born athlete took to Twitter to announce her move into the music industry. The 24-year-old released her first song, Push The Clouds Away, via iTunes this week.

She said: "I wrote the song about my boyfriend. I've sang my whole life, but until recently only my parents really knew I could sing, no one else knew I could sing – even my boyfriend."

"I think everyone was surprised when I sang on the wheelchair tennis anthem last year."

She recorded the new track after her boyfriend, Marc McCarroll, also a wheelchair tennis player, bought her studio time.

Jordanne said: "I never wrote a song before and I took it to the producer, he added his expertise and then I recorded the vocals back in April."

The Paralympic bronze medalist says preparations are going to plan ahead of Rio, where she fancies her chances of gold success.



The cover of Jordanne's first single

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AND off to the hairdresser's where the lad in the next seat is telling the barber how to turn him into a Peaky Blinder. Razor-cut up the neck, clippers up the back of the head and a mop of unkempt hair to top it off. It is a shame no-one has told him that he's never going to look like a Peaky Blinder because he hasn't got a face like Cillian Murphy. Sure enough, the lad emerges from the barber's looking nothing like a 1930s Birmingham gangster but resembling a roughly-uprooted carrot. There are a lot of them about.

WHY so many daft haircuts? Presumably so that when the kids report for school next month they can fulfil that ancient English tradition of being sent home again. You can feel it in the air like the gathering chill of autumn. Stupid kids with stupid haircuts and stupid parents bleating about their human rights. Another school year approaches and with it the old, old question. Who'd be a teacher?



OWN up. Did you not punch the air with joy at the report of a judge subjecting a tuppence defendant to a taste of his own foul language? "You're a bit of a ****," John Hennigan told Judge Patricia Lynch at Chelmsford Crown Court. "You are a bit of a **** yourself," replied the judge. "Go **** yourself!" exclaimed Hennigan. "You, too," responded the judge.

So far, so good. A fat slob who racially abused a woman and her children gets sent down with some Anglo-Saxon language ringing in his ears. And then someone complained. They always do, don't they? In this case an unspecified number of complaints has been made to the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office. Judge Lynch may be disciplined. And that will satisfy the sort of silly, dangerous people who believe that justice is never fully served until a villain is exonerated and a law enforcer is punished. There is a word for such people but I'm running out of asterisks.

I TAKE the same view of allotments that I do of steam railways and vintage cars. I'm always glad that other people are looking after them.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Planning blow as now council facing costs

A COUNCIL faces the double blow of paying a firm's costs having already seen two of its planning refusals overturned on appeal.

Dudley Council's planning committee turned down plans by New River Retail for two supermarkets at pub sites.

One involved demolishing Halesowen's Maypole Inn and replacing it with a store, while the other was for a store to be built next to the Ashwood Inn in Wordsley.

Both were turned down because of existing convenience stores in the area and concerns were also put forward about parking.

But both decisions were overturned on appeal by an independent planning inspectorate.

Inspector Mr Michael Boniface also invited the applicant to submit costs, citing in both cases 'unreasonable behaviour resulting in unnecessary or wasted expense'.

The application will be made to the council and an agreement made over the amount eventually paid out.

The Maypole, on Bassnag Road, was listed as an 'asset of community value' and it was said the planning committee on a site visit found parking problems.

In a report, the inspector criticised the council's submitted evidence, stating: "Very little empirical evidence was provided and concerns appear to relate more to the general traffic conditions in the area."

The proposal on Ashwood Inn was to build a store in the pub car park but the venue itself would not be

By Alex Ross

affected. Mr Boniface said the applicant had submitted its case on highway and parking matters, which had been accepted by the council's planning and highways officers. But it was not 'robustly explained' by the council following its refusal how the development might create issues of highway safety.

He said: "It is clear to me the council has prevented or delayed development that should clearly have been permitted. I therefore find unreasonable behaviour resulting in unnecessary or wasted expense, as described in the planning practice guidance, has been demonstrated and a full award of costs is justified."

A third application to demolish the Summer House in Woodsetton to replace it with a supermarket, refused by the council, was also overturned at appeal but the inspector said costs were not justified for that case.

Thousand mile trip for haircut



Ray James drives from Scotland for a trim by Andrew Gearing

A DUDLEY barber has a loyal customer who makes a 1,000 mile trip from Scotland to get his hair cut.

Former Black Country resident Ray James travels around four times a year in his Morris Minor to get a trim by Andrew Gearing at his barber shop called Wanna Haircut, in Woodsetton.

Mr James has been making the journey for the latest 15 years and he has generated both local and national interest.

Andrew said: "He is a local character and a mad Albion fan! Ray just gets a normal hair cut. I think he has done about 40,000 miles travelling to get his haircut with me."

Ray used to live in Tipton before moving to Scotland but he would still return to the region to get his hair cut in the Black Country.

It was the funeral of Ray's former barber that led to him to getting his haircuts by Andrew.

He explained: "At his old barber's funeral, Ray asked his barber's wife where does a barber go to get their haircut? And his wife said me."

Ray visited Wanna Haircut this month for his latest trim.

Flip Out centre bounces into action

A £1 million trampoline arena has opened its doors to the public in Oldbury.

The Flip Out activity arena welcomed its first customers on Saturday. The new facility has been created inside a disused warehouse on Churchbridge and has created more than 50 jobs.

A 30-metre tumble track, pinball trampolines, gladiator beams, foam pits and high-low flip boxes all feature at the attraction.

General manager Mick Hickey said: "Flip Out offers something for everyone with an adults' trampoline arena, a separate area for the under-5s to bounce in, plus basketball slam dunk and penalty shoot-out areas for the older kids to enjoy."

"The high-low flip box area includes a police van, there's a special DJ area and even a double-decker bus, which is our VIP Party Room."

Flip Out is open between noon and 6pm on Saturday, 9am and 7pm on Sunday.

The firm was given the go-ahead to move to Oldbury after planners at Sandwell Council gave the scheme the thumbs up back in April. The growing company recently opened a centre at Stone in Staffordshire, and has similar attractions in Stoke and Bristol. Others are also planned for London and Manchester.

Standard entry costs £10. See www.flipout.co.uk/sandwell

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£32m overhaul scheme for trading estate is passed

AMBITIOUS £32 million plans to overhaul a historic trading estate in Tipton and create more than 1,500 jobs have been approved by council bosses.

Proposals to flatten the majority of the existing buildings on the Vaughan Trading Estate in Sedgley Road East were unveiled in April. Now plans have been given the go-ahead after Sandwell Council planning committee voted unanimously in favour of it at a planning meeting at the town's Council House.

Generosity saves money for museum

A JOB that could have cost the Black Country Living Museum thousands of pounds, has been completed free of charge thanks to the generosity of two companies.

The museum in Tipton Road feared it would be facing a huge bill when they discovered that two chimney flues at the Edwardian St James' School needed to be replaced.

Museum staff approached companies for quotes to replace the flues, replicas which were fitted in 1991.

Luckily Worcestershire Chimney Services and Midtherm, in Dudley, agreed to do the work for free, though it could have cost thousands of pounds.

Between them, the firms created a modern, safer version of the existing flues that would still fit in with the period style of the classroom. Custom-made parts and three days' worth of labour was needed to complete the job.

A planning application submitted to Sandwell Council by developer Dudley Unit Trust says overhauling the site would create 1,510 posts - 944 on site. Bosses behind the scheme aim to create 430,000 sq ft of work space on land neighbouring the Thomas Dudley Foundry and CAB Autos.

Councillor Ian Jones, who worked on the former Vono site in the 1970s, believes the major investment will be a big boost to the area.

He said: "Anything that will bring employment and upgrade the estate I think should be welcomed. I used to work at the site and it's been in desperate need of an upgrade for some considerable time.

It's very pleasing that there is going to be investment going into that area, because it was home to a lot of local employers and provided jobs for an awful lot of people in the area before.

"You look at companies like CAB Autos, and you can tell how successful they are by the fact that the car park is always rammed. It will be good to have other businesses to supplement them in the area. Anything that can help the site become more usable and even better is something I welcome. Now I really hope that it gets delivered on time and within budget."

The planning report for the site states: "The proposed development has the potential to provide for 944 full-time equivalent jobs on site."

Residents greet tower block facelift



Carl Yale, partnering manager at Lovell, Councillor Kerrie Carmichael and tenants Trevor Moore and Irene Munday

A MULTI-MILLION pound facelift to transform a 1960s tower block is underway. Nelson House, in Tipton, will be upgraded in a £2.5 million refurbishment.

It will result in new windows and doors, lighting, fire alarms and smoke detectors, balcony railings and a feature roof. The work will also see the creation of a larger car park and comprehensive landscaping. Construction company Lovells will be carrying out the build.

The Upper Church Lane property

will be the 35th block of flats to be refurbished in the last 10 years by Sandwell Council.

Authority bosses hailed the revamp and said it was a long time coming.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, visiting the site, said: "It's good news that this work is finally going ahead. It's long overdue for the tenants here and we appreciate their patience. Not only will the renovation create better homes for the people living here, it will also lengthen the lifespan of and improve the appearance of the building."

"I'm extremely proud that we have managed to continue investing in our council homes despite such challenging financial times. In this case, the work was delayed due to Government cutting the funding for our housing investment programme and we have had to find the money ourselves.

"This is the 35th block that the council has refurbished over the last 10 years and this is part of an ongoing refurbishment programme for the borough's tower blocks." "The work should finish in the summer of 2017."

Firm fined on inferno set to relocate

A COMPANY fined £270,000 for blunders that sparked a factory inferno so hot it melted plastic window frames on nearby houses, plans to move from the Black Country, it has emerged.

Alcohols, which has operated a business from Cresswells Road, Langley for 30 years, is finalising a proposed £12 million switch to a purpose-built factory in Rugby, Warwickshire.

The news was broken during the Wolverhampton Crown Court case on Thursday in which the firm admitted health and safety failures that put its staff and the general public at risk.

The massive inferno broke out when chemical fumes were ignited by static electricity as highly flammable ethyl acetate was transferred from one container to another without the earth cable being connected.

The blaze burned for 18 hours because valves on chemical tanks were corroded and could not be turned off, the court heard. It was so fierce that panels bent on parked cars and plastic fascias melted at nearby homes.

Mr Andrew McLaughlin, representing Alcohols, which has an annual turn over of around £22million and makes about £1.7million-a-year profit, disclosed: "The company is now planning to move to Rugby. This will cost between £12 million and £15million. There are no immediate plans to sell the Langley site."

Mixed age city choir seeks more singers

QUINTON Community Choir is looking for more people to join its ranks.

The mixed age choir has around 70 members aged eight to over 80 and performs a variety of pop, gospel and classical music as well as traditional songs from around the world. It was founded in 2006 to celebrate and encourage local talent. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings in school term time from 6.45pm to 8.15pm at St Boniface Church, Quinton Road West.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

A sporting well done, but relief it's all over

DRIVING home from work, my attention was drawn to three girls of about 20 lurking in the bushes of a busy country road with no footpath, staring at their phones. Apparently it's called Pokémon. Which is strange, because I always thought pokémon was the bloke you call when the chimney's blocked.

ALSO, what is all this walking around with bottled water about? Is playing Pokémon really such thirsty work? Everywhere you look, there seem to be teenagers wandering about with a bottle of Evian in one hand and their mobile in the other. All I can say is they must have really strong bladders.

SO that's it for the Olympics, and once again the lads and lasses have done us proud. Finishing second, ahead of mighty China, is a remarkable achievement, and a welcome tonic after the abject failure of the England football team and the frustrating inconsistency of the cricket side. But, whisper it quietly, am I the only one who is also a little relieved it is now out of the way? Was the wall-to-wall coverage of minority sports really justified? The other Friday, there was a horse trotting round a pound in circles. I assumed it was a warm-up, but it turned out to be the main event. Dressage they call it. I've seen more action at Crufts. Then there's gymnastics. I know those taking part are terribly good, with a discipline and work-ethic to put many footballers to shame. But it's not a spectator sport, is it? When I was at school gymnastics was what the unsporty kids did to avoid too much physical exertion. I loved it. Got a certificate and everything. Most of, all, the news coverage has been ridiculous. I stopped watching the BBC breakfast news because the first 15 minutes of every bulletin was about pole-vaulting and the like. As I said, well done to all who took part. But can we get back to normal now? It's just that I like my news bulletins to have a bit of, well, news in them.

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn has been accused of being out of touch because he did not recognise Ant and Dec when shown pictures of the pair. Why? There are lots of things you can criticise the beleaguered politician for, but if he has managed to avoid I'm A Celebrity, Britain's Got Talent, and Saturday Night Takeaway, then good for him. Ant and Dec are the televisual equivalent of keg lager or cheap plonk. Most of us have experienced them at some time or other, but it's not something to shout about.



The walking party which conquered Ben Nevis



Walkers raised £9,000 for the Dudley mayor's charities



Bert making his last climb up Ben Nevis at the age of 89

How Bert inspired us to walk up mountains

NATHAN BRIANT tells how the memory of Bert Bissell, the peace campaigner, will always live on, helping so many others

THE weather was poor but that didn't stop a party from Dudley commemorating a legendary peace campaigner from the town for the third consecutive year.

Legendary is a word often overused, but it is appropriate for Bert Bissell, whose life and work is not only commemorated in his home town but also 390 miles away, in Fort William in Scotland. He took countless trips with young people, showing them Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. Fort William is the nearest town to the mountain. He was instrumental in maintaining links between Fort William, Dudley and Hiroshima, one of the two Japanese cities obliterated by an American atomic bomb at the end of the Second World War.

Memorial

In 1985, he unveiled a memorial to the links established between the three places. And perhaps his most productive trip up Ben Nevis took place in 1945. It was Victory over Japan Day, or VJ Day, and Bert, who lived on Selborne Road, led a pilgrimage party from the Bible class to the summit and constructed a 'peace cairn' to commemorate the end of the Second World War. It is this which is immortalised by the trekkers. And to recognise the impact he had on so many people's lives and his attitude towards world peace, 28 people from the Black Country walked the 10-mile round trip, with its incline of more than 4,000 ft, up the mountain recently to raise money for charities. Councillor Steve Waltho said: "We kicked off in rainy conditions. There were about 20 of us and it was a battle to be honest – there are so few times when I have seen so much



Bert Bissell climbing Ben Nevis on November 11, 1972, to lay a wreath

water [on Ben Nevis]. When we were there the conditions weren't good and it just made it more treacherous. I have got £300 to £400 from people from work. I would say we are going to exceed £5,000. It'll probably be much higher than that. "We think it's just the real appeal of the event over three years. For three years myself, [Dudley MP] Ian Austin and [fellow Dudley councillor] Dave Tyler came together; Ian knows the Bissell family. The first year attracted 10 or 11 walkers; in 2015 there were 15 and this year it attracted the most ever." He added: "The very first year we contacted a councillor up there. He's very interested in what we are trying to do up there. There are three stained glass windows moved from Dudley to Fort William [to mark Mr Bissell's contribution]." "Bert was 96 when he died in 1998. He

started the Bible club back in 1925 in Bicken Street. He is usually credited as being Dudley's first probation officer – even before probation officers existed. He used to take young people and set them on the right path. But he took a whole interest in world peace. "And there is a peace cairn at the top of Ben Nevis, made by the groups of young people taken up there and of course Bert himself. He was an absolute phenomenon. I don't know of any other person who has the freedom of two different boroughs. He was recognised in Fort William and Dudley." But despite Councillor Waltho's admiration, there is one regret he has – that he never got to meet Mr Bissell himself, never got to speak to him about his ideals. He attended a meeting in the mid-1990s at which Mr Bissell spoke, but he never met him. Mr Bissell begun taking Bible classes up

Snowdon in Wales then went to Ben Nevis for the first time in the early 1930s. It was there he formed a lifelong love for that range. He is a well-known figure in Fort William; he used to give talks to hundreds of schoolchildren. The Highland Council's Councillor Thomas MacLennan said: "I'm 53 and the relationship with Dudley and Fort William was really strong. They came up again three years ago and Bert Bissell is well known in Fort William." Such was the impact that when Mr Bissell talked at schools in the town, people remember them decades on. Mr Bissell's family arrived in the Black Country in the 1920s from Yorkshire. Born in 1902, he was one of five sons, their father a Methodist minister. He helped young people for decades and the regular blood donor was rewarded for his service when he was awarded an MBE in 1959. His life is commemorated with a monument opposite Dudley Council House in Coronation Gardens. Astley Blake, who now runs the Bible class Bert set up along with other campaigners Damian Corfield, Shaz Saleem and Steve Rayner and former Dudley police chief Richard Green, also took part.

Charities

The party included Dudley's Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif and other councillors Keiran Casey and Cathryn Bayton. They were also helped by National Express, who sponsored the climb. They provided a coach for the stretch from the Black Country to Scotland and back again – a journey of nearly 800 miles. All funds raised this year will go to the Councillor Hanif's chosen charities for the year. They are the Friends of Alfie Johnson – which helps children with disabilities – the Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living and Diabetes UK. The town legend was a friend of the Austin family and someone current Dudley North MP Ian Austin MP knew well as a child. Mr Austin said in June: "It goes to show the enduring legacy of Bert's work in the community." * Donations in Mr Bissell's memory can be donated online at bertbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk

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Don't wait for another tragedy on road

SO council bosses have decided that following investigation of the tragic death of a father-of-eight on 'death road' Oakham Road, it was decided that changes were not needed and only a small majority of cars monitored were found to be speeding.

I would challenge Councillor Hilary Bills and any member of the authority's highway section, along with any member of the police, to accompany me on any week day between 8 and 9am and 4 and 5.30pm to attempt to cross this road by one of the so-called local safety schemes.

Perhaps if you bring along a toddler in a pushchair or your elderly relative with a walking stick to cross with us you may realise the dangers involved.

Volume of traffic along this road has increased dramatically since road traffic measures at Burnt Tree.

The 'local safety scheme' mentioned is, I assume, the recent road markings displaying a pushchair and woman crossing. The positioning of these road markings by the junction of Tansley Hill Road means anyone attempting to cross here has to cross virtually on a blind bend whilst watching two

other junctions for cars filtering into Oakham Road.

No cars ever give way for you to cross and given the dangerous position most would not choose to cross here.

I walk along this road regularly between 4 and 6pm and would say on average between 20 and 40 cars whizz past you, some at excessive speeds, before you have the opportunity to cross safely. Please don't wait for another tragedy to happen before some form of road calming measures are considered.

RUTH CRAWFORD
Dudley

Esther in call to 'Bag It, Beat It'

THIS September is Women and Heart Disease Awareness Month at the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and I'm writing to ask your readers to help fund vital research by taking part our in 'Bag It, Beat It' campaign.

I've donated to my local shop and I'd encourage all your readers to do the same. Fill a bag with unwanted clothes, shoes, books, handbags, DVDs, CDs, bric-a-brac and children's toys, to 'Bag It, Beat It'. Donations will help the BHF fund life-saving heart research.

Coronary heart disease is the single biggest killer in the UK, causing the deaths of over 6,410 people in the West Midlands each year, over 2,540 of which are women, but with the continued support of the community the BHF can fight harder to reduce this figure. To find your local BHF shop visit www.bhf.org.uk/bagit or to book a free collection call 0800 250 0024.

DAME ESTHER RANTZEN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Speed cameras make roads more dangerous

WE hear that speed cameras are due to be turned back on in some areas. I have nothing against cameras, even though I fell foul of one many years ago, but I have a theory that cameras actually cause speeding.

In the days before cameras, drivers would naturally go at a speed which they thought safe and reasonable for the road they were on. In the real world this meant in a 30mph limit they be round about that. The police were plentiful in their panda cars and would not stop someone doing, say, 33mph. Drivers understood to be sensible. It seems to me that we have now bred a generation of drivers who only think they need to moderate their speed where there are cameras. Anywhere else they drive at whatever speed they want, usually far too fast to react to a situation.

I liken it to the use of double yellow lines to control parking. There was a time before lines were painted everywhere when drivers understood where they could park and where it was unsafe to park.

I hope that with modern technology we soon have hidden cameras moved around and that I no longer have drivers tailgating me when I try to keep to the speed limits.

RON GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

Plea to help dog shelter in Romania

LAST year we appealed for help to support Amicii Dog Shelter in Romania.

This small dedicated shelter offers sanctuary to 200 dogs rescued from the streets and the vile inhumane public shelters.

Can you help them again?

They desperately need donations of adult and puppy dog food. Blankets, sheets and towels are required as the winter temperature drops to minus 20. Flea treatment, shampoo, dog bowls, unwanted dog medication, bandages, dressing packs and Sudocrem are also very welcome.

To help the dogs keep warm in winter they need medium and large size dog coats.

If you're able to make a financial donation it would help to greatly reduce the vet bills.

Please help if you can to make life more bearable for these dogs.

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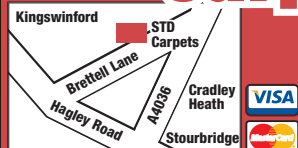
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It's oarsome! Boat for disabled to use

A ROWING boat that can be used by people with disabilities will be launched in Dudley next month.

Access in Dudley (AID) has secured a £10,000 grant from Sport England to buy a stable quad rowing boat, suitable for four or five people.

The first boat of its kind in the area, it will be used primarily to give people with disabilities the opportunity to learn how to row. Dudley Rowing Club is working in partnership with Access in Dudley to provide the sessions.

The bid to Sport England has been supported by Netherton Water Sports Centre, Dudley Council and British Rowing. The boat, named AID1 in honour of the organisation that secured its funding, will be launched on Thursday, September 1, at Netherton Reservoir.

Tina Boothroyd, chairman of Access in Dudley and Dudley Rowing Club, said: "Following Team GB's success on the water at the Rio Olympics, we're absolutely delighted to have secured this funding to give local people who may have thought learning to row was not an option for them."



The impressive main gates at Mary Stevens Park, where £3m has been spent to restore the park to its prime

Views sought from public after £3m revamp of park

COUNCIL bosses want to know what people think of changes to a Stourbridge park following a £3 million revamp.

Visitors to Mary Stevens Park are being invited to take part in a survey after the completion of the programme of improvements.

Dudley Council is running the survey to gain feedback on the park's recent Heritage Lottery Fund investment.

Improvements include repairs to the park gates, war memorial, bandstand and Heath Pool as well as the creation of a new cafe and toilet facilities.

People can take part in the survey online at www.dudley.gov.uk and searching 'Mary Stevens Park survey' or by collecting a questionnaire from the park's activity centre. The closing date is Friday, September 2.

Dudley Council's environment boss Hillary Bills said: "This is a great opportunity for people who visit Mary Stevens Park to tell us about how they visit and utilise the park and we're keen to gain insight into how the recent improvements may have enhanced their time."

A £2.6 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund allowed the revamp to go ahead.

The entrance gates, which had long been in need of repair were refurbished. The grade II-listed bandstand saw parts of its original ironwork replaced and the Stourbridge coat of arms installed. A new power supply to the bandstand was also laid to make future concerts easier to stage.

A ranger has been appointed by the council to deliver a programme of activities at the revamped park.



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New speed cameras for junction on busy route

SPEED cameras in Dudley are set to be installed at a notorious junction on the Birmingham New Road under plans by highways bosses to crack down on dangerous driving.

Dudley Council said it was investigating putting two fixed cameras on the bend near Woodcroft Avenue, Tipton.

U-turns could also be banned at the junction with Ivyhouse Lane, Coseley, and cameras installed to police it.

Councillors and residents have long called for safety measures at the Woodcroft Avenue junction. A campaign called for new traffic lights near the entrance to the street over concerns for the safety of motorists leaving the Foxyards estate. Some 600 people signed a petition in support of that suggestion.

The measures have been included in the council's Local Safety Scheme Proposed Programme for 2016/17.

Safety experts estimate the measures would decrease the likelihood of accidents on that stretch of the busy Birmingham New Road by half.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has been vocal about the need for action on that stretch of road. He said: "I'm delighted that the council has listened to residents and will be installing cameras to tackle speeding."

"Speeding is a real problem along the Birmingham New Road and I have been working with local council-

By Richard Guttridge

lors to press the council to sort it out."

Dudley councillor Ken Finch said: "Whether this will completely solve the problem I don't know. Birmingham New Road is a very dangerous road and a fast road. Residents fear there might be a fatality in the future and we are trying to prevent that."

"I've been involved for three years and have done quite a number of site visits. At least somebody is listening to us, which is a good thing."

A series of other measures aimed at improving safety on roads in the Dudley borough have also been revealed.

Mini roundabouts could be added to Gospel End Street in Sedgley and the junction of Hagley Road and Albert Road, in Hayley Green, to aid traffic flow.

The speed limit along Wynnall Lane, Lutley Lane and Foxcote Lane near Halesowen will be reduced to 40mph as the current national speed limit is deemed to be too fast for such residential areas.

Landlord who failed to act is fined again

A LANDLORD has been found guilty for a second time of allowing a house to remain in serious disrepair. In total the two prosecutions have cost Adnan Rashid more than £7,000.

Rashid, 29, failed to attend court and was found guilty in his absence of failing to comply with an improvement notice served by Sandwell Council.

The house on Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, had problems including damp and mould, broken windows, defective doors and a damaged roof allowing water to leak inside.

Rashid, of Station Road, Brierley Hill, was initially prosecuted after complaints about the condition of the house in 2015. A second case was brought against the landlord when he failed to carry out repairs at the property.

Rashid was fined £3,000, costs of £551.16, a victim's surcharge of £120 and £776.36 costs at the hearing last week. He was handed a previous fine of £3,046 last November.



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100-year-old is life and soul of the party

IT was a celebration fit for a Queen as Fanny Skelding donned her glad rags and partyed with family for her 100th birthday.

Mrs Skelding was showered with gifts, cake, balloons and champagne at The Brambles care home, in Stourbridge, on August 16.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, also came along to join the festivities and offer his congratulations for the momentous milestone.

Fanny was born and raised in Corngreaves Road, in Cradley Heath.

Her parents had both been widowed and re-married again, meaning Fanny had six brothers and four half-sisters.

She married her husband John in 1939 at St Luke's Church, in Cradley Heath. They had met while hop-picking and described it as 'love at first sight'.

They settled and spent their married life in Cradley Heath, having one daughter, Jill.

Fanny now has one grand-daughter Laura, one great-granddaughter Yvette and a great great grandson Hugo, aged two.

Brambles care manager, Dee Whitehouse, said: "For her age

Fanny is incredible. It is such an achievement.

"She moved in with us in August last year but before that she was still living on her own as was very independent.

"She is really popular and loved by all of the staff and residents as she made friends so easily.

"She doesn't let anything hold her back and enjoys a tippie of Baileys before bedtime too.

Soaps

"She loves watching the soaps on TV, especially Emmerdale and Coronation Street.

"It is amazing to have a resident at the care home who is at such a great age as Fanny is."

Fanny received a message from the Queen and the Department of Works and Pensions congratulating her.

The special birthday party was held in the conservatory at the Vicarage Road care home.

Ms Whitehouse added: "Fanny said she really enjoyed the day.

"All of her family and friends were present and she had a sing-song too.

"I'm sure we'll be celebrating again with her next year."



Centenarian Fanny Skelding proudly shows her congratulations card from the Queen

Folks are getting down to the 22 Push Up Challenge

COUNCILLORS, police officers and the public are rallying together to take part in the 22 Push Up Challenge.

The scheme is raising awareness for army veterans suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Dudley councillor Stuart Henley and Superintendent Keith Fraser of Wolverhampton police are among those who have been posting videos on social media in support of veterans.

The challenge consists of 22 days and 22 push ups on each day to raise awareness for the 22 ex-servicemen and women who commit suicide every day in the US from PTSD.

Mr Henley, who serves the Halesowen North ward, is on day 13 of the challenge which he is taking part in because he has friends from his time as a fire-fighter who suffer from PTSD.

Superintendent Keith Fraser and other officers from Wolverhampton Police Station have also joined the effort. He said: "One of my officers encouraged a number of colleagues to take part in the 22 push up challenge to honour those who serve and to help raise awareness for veteran suicide prevention through education. This is a worthy cause."

Zac Foster, 20, is from Darlaston and was in the Air Cadets for eight years and is now a student. He said: "I have seen the ins and outs of military lifestyle, so to me PTSD is a strong issue which is sometimes forgotten, we see soldiers move out to frontline, but we never see what happens to the soldiers on the other side. I wanted to raise awareness."

Footballer's family call for 'robust' investigation

THE family of former Aston Villa star Dalian Atkinson has welcomed the launch of a criminal probe into his death and insisted there must be a 'robust' investigation.

Two West Mercia Police officers are facing an investigation after Mr Atkinson was Tasered in Telford. The 48-year-old died 90 minutes after being shot with the stun gun in the early hours of Monday, August 15.

The retired footballer's death is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), which insists it will carry out 'a full and thorough' inquiry. The police watchdog said it would focus on 'the level and type of force used' by officers.

In a statement released through the charity Inquest, Mr Atkinson's family said: "We are still in shock as to the circumstances in which Dalian died.

Determined

"We are determined to get justice for him, which means getting to the truth.

"We welcome the IPCC's decision that this will be a criminal investigation and emphasise their request that there should be no speculation in the media as to what happened to Dalian. This could prejudice the criminal investigation and any potential prosecution.

"We ask that anyone with information about what happened to Dalian in the early hours of Monday, August 15, contacts the IPCC.

"We are looking to the IPCC to carry out a thorough and robust investigation that will ultimately provide transparency and accountability. Dalian's memory requires nothing less."

The two officers have been served with gross misconduct notices but the IPCC stressed the launch of a criminal investigation did not necessarily mean criminal charges will follow.

Further analysis of the Taser is being carried out, the IPCC said, while a team of investigators has already



Dalian Atkinson - death probe gathered statements from 'a number of witnesses'.

IPCC Commissioner Derrick Campbell said: "Having carefully considered the evidence gathered so far, we are undertaking a criminal investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mr Atkinson's death and the level and type of force used.

"Two police officers will be interviewed under criminal caution by IPCC investigators.

"As this is a criminal investigation, the IPCC is limited in the amount of information which can be released into the public domain.

"I would ask people to be patient during the progress of our investigation and not to add to speculation about the circumstances of Mr Atkinson's death."

Mr Atkinson was Tasered after police were called to a disturbance at his father's house in Meadow Close at 1.30am.

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A cracking shot of children enjoying VE Day – Victory in Europe Day – on Tuesday, May 8, 1945 in Gordon Street, Wolverhampton



Birmingham Street, Dudley, in the 1920s – another insatiable place. Thanks to Dudley Archives & Local History



North Street, Wolverhampton, in the early 20th Century – an area of bad-quality housing but strong neighbourhood loyalties. Thanks to Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies

A time when we mattered more than you or I, in the community

WE live in a 'me and mine' world. The cult of the individual, of 'doing it for me', of watching out for myself, and of 'it's nothing to do with me' has been proclaimed from the highest level and has pervaded all aspects of society.

We spend our time looking out for ourselves, watching our backs, getting on with our own lives – and more and more we are on our own.

We live at the back of our houses and in our back gardens. Our front door step is used only as an access into our private space, not to stand upon and look out at the life of the street and engage with it.

We don't join clubs like we used to and we don't flock to the rec as once we did to play games of 20 a-side football.

Our eyes are turned resolutely away from the public sphere and focused instead on our own little world. We sit transfixed by texting on our mobile phones, we com-

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

municate with our computers, we play with hi-tech equipment, and we watch satellite television that tells us of goings on across the world when we know so little about what's happening around the corner.

And when we do go outside we head as fast as we can for our cars to place ourselves safely within an extension of our home.

We have become more insular and less neighbourly. This is a rapid reversal of the world in which so many of us grew up.

That was indeed a 'we and ours world' where everything was part of a pool into which everyone could dip.

That sense of mutuality was highlighted by the the Co-op, building societies and trade unions, but its roots lay firmly in the family. Very little was owned individually, everything belonged to each member, be they young or old.

Mothers and fathers worked not for their

own benefit but for the wellbeing of the family as a collective unit and taught their children the same belief.

But it was not only the good things that were shared, so too were hardships – and hardships abounded in working-class England. If an old person had no fuel, someone would give them a bucket of slack. If a man was injured or killed in an accident at work, then the neighbours would pull together to help his widow and children get by.

Women, especially older women, were at the centre of this community action.

They found out what was happening through gossip. If a woman was ill, someone would always feed her kids and do her washing. If she was in labour, an old lady would come and help with the birth.

When someone died, another old lady would lay them out so that the family and neighbours could pay their respects, whilst yet another old lady would collect the money from the neighbours for the wreath.

And it was also respected old women who would arrange the charabanc trips to the

country or the seaside and the street parties that celebrated the great events in the life of the nation, like VE Day and the Coronation of the Queen.

On Tuesday May 8, 1945, that day's papers carried the news that it was "VE Day Today". In the West Midlands, as elsewhere, VE Day was marked by the pealing of church bells, the relaying by loudspeakers of the King's broadcast speech at 9pm, parades of Civil Defence organisations, and, of course, street parties.

Overnight, men and women had happily hung up bunting and flags, and it seemed that the poorer the neighbourhood the more colourful and plentiful were the decorations that garlanded the streets.

As the preparations were made, they were accompanied by the bangs of fireworks that some people with foresight had saved from before the war – for there had been no public sale of fireworks for six years.

The day itself was a damp one, but not even the rain could mar the cheerfulness that abounded.



An atmospheric photo showing two women walking along Brown Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, in the early 1950s

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Country show success despite wet weather

THE rain and wind did not dampen the spirits as people turned out to a two-day country agricultural and horticultural show at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

The event, on Saturday and Sunday, was the first of a series of events to replace the Sandwell Show.

Visitors were treated to farming demonstrations, animal racing, farm machinery exhibits, live music, a real ale bar, children's fun entertainment, countryside crafts and falconry displays.

There was also a market over both days of the event, on Saturday and Sunday.

Farm manager Melissa Underwood-Grattage, said visitors could enjoy events such as sheep racing and the chance to see farm machinery.



One of the new chicks at the event



Felix Underwood-Grattage, aged six

Enclosures

"It's great," she said. "It's a really good event showcasing our rare breeds and how we look after the country park."

David Dockrat, aged 58, from Oak Road, Walsall Wood, was at the event with his family, including fiancée Yvonne Mole, 49. He said: "I used to come when the Sandwell Show was on and it used to be rammed."

"It's still good that they have got things coming and spread over a few days."

Sally Skinner, outreach co-ordinator from Dudley Zoo was at the show with milk snake, Sybil.

She said: "We are trying to get into the community and get the name of the zoo spread."

"We have got three new enclosures this year and events to promote and we are giving out 'kids go free' vouchers so we are just raising awareness



Jessica Dockrat, and Riley Davies

and answering questions that people have about the zoo." Mandy Gregory, 43, from Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton, partner Darren Wade-Smith, 44 and daughter Pepper Gregory, 23, had all travelled to the show.

Pepper said: "We are doing a thing where we take the alphabet and go



Clog maker Jeremy Atkinson

and go to different places so we are ticking 's' off the list. "Mum wanted to see the cows. For me it was a bit of everything and for dad it's just getting out of the house. I think it's good that they are doing something and bringing something back to the park now the Sandwell Show has gone."

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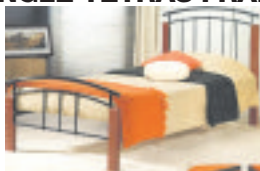
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'Thrilling' new director aims to strike a chord



Expressive – the CBSO's new musical director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, has won plaudits for her energy and talent SHE is following in the footsteps of Sir Simon Rattle and Andris Nelsons.

The new music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, 29-year-old Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, will pick up the baton at her 'welcome' concert in charge of the CBSO tomorrow evening (Friday).

The Lithuanian has won plaudits for her energy and talent and from September 2016 she will become officially the CBSO's 12th chief conductor for a period of at least three years.

She made her debut with the orchestra in July 2015 and so impressed musicians, management and audiences alike that she was asked to return in January to conduct a special concert.

Gražinytė-Tyla was formerly assistant conductor at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She is also music director of the Salzburg Landestheater, in which city she won the Salzburg festival young conductors award.

Chief executive Stephen Maddock said: "There was an instant chemistry between Mirga and our musicians, and the excitement in Symphony Hall at her concerts was palpable. Mirga

is thrilling audiences wherever she goes."

Moritz Pfister, the orchestra's principal second violin, agreed. "She's a very popular choice. She's very musical, and also extremely expressive. She has a clear idea of what she wants, but at the same time she's very receptive to what the orchestra has to offer."

Gražinytė-Tyla said: "I felt so at ease working with the CBSO, and I can't wait to get started. Every single musician in the orchestra is an artist with great individuality and sense of responsibility."

For tickets see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.



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Flying Scotsman coming to Brum

THE world's most famous steam locomotive, Flying Scotsman, is coming to Birmingham before heading to the Severn Valley.

It will be at Tysley Locomotive Works during Birmingham Heritage Week and in steam and on public display from September 16 to 18. The iconic loco will then operate on the Severn Valley Railway between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth from September 21 to 26.

Visitors are able to purchase tickets at Tysley to walk through the corridor in the tender and onto the footplate for an explanation of the driver and fireman's controls.

The locomotive has undergone a complete overhaul and will be on loan courtesy of the National Railway Museum.

Full Details of the three-day Flying Scotsman at Tysley event, admission prices and instructions for the purchase of tickets can be found at www.VintageTrains.co.uk/FlyingScotsman website.

Roy downs tools for his second retirement



Roy Reynolds is retiring for a second time, aged 69

A RETIRING employee has been praised by the firm where he worked for more than 18 years.

Roy Reynolds, 69, retired from Dudley company Petford Tools, surrounded by colleagues thanking him for all his hard work and wishing him well.

Managing director at Petford Tools, Melvin Sinar, said: "He is a truly committed and honest gentleman and a valued member of staff who will be really missed."

He had actually taken early retirement from his previous job as an engineer in the bus industry, before he decided to enter the workplace again with the Dudley toolmakers. He was quickly promoted and ran the company's quality management systems for more than 17 years.

Mr Sinar said: "He was very well respected and a lovely gentleman." Mr Reynolds added: "I have always enjoyed going to work. It has been great to see the company grow over the years. When I started there were only about 25 people. Now it must be around 140."

The father-of-two lives with wife Sandra in Amblecote and has two grandchildren.

Shares to put £5m SVR plan on track

A £5 million scheme to improve the Severn Valley Railway will be funded by the selling of shares.

The improvements at Bridgnorth would see the addition of a 53-bed staff hostel, a station cafe and toilets. All the money raised from the share sale will be spent on the major overhaul, likely to be carried out in three phases.

The first phase will be to restore parts of the railway in the style of the Great Western Railway in the 1900s.

The original bar, waiting rooms, and a new buffet and toilets will all be developed in the first phase starting next October. The second phase will involve a new turntable being installed for engines and improvements to the car park at the top of the site. The final phase will be the building of the accommodation block for volunteers.

It is an investment that the SVR sees as bringing the station up to the same standard as the one in Kidderminster. The shares will go on sale this winter.

More black and Asian blood donors are urgently needed

MORE black and south Asian people are needed as blood donors in the Black Country.

NHS Blood and Transfer (NHS-BT) is urging people to donate blood as part of the Missing Type campaign, particularly from the black and Asian communities.

The organisation revealed 12,053 people in the Black Country, including Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall gave blood at least once last year.

But out of those were just 539 black people and 1,833 south Asian people. This is despite people from Black

and Minority Ethnic backgrounds more likely to contract illnesses including sickle cell disease which may require a blood transfusion.

Survive

Abdul Alim, aged 28, from Sandwell, has thalassaemia which leaves him constantly weak and tired due to low haemoglobin levels meaning he consequently needs two to three units of blood transfused every four weeks in order to survive.

He is of Bangladeshi background and works as a support and development worker for the OSCAR Sandwell charity.

He said: "I feel reborn after a transfusion. Blood donation is a special gift and it is like being given another life."

In England, 3.5 per cent of the population is black African or black Caribbean but only 0.64 per cent of donors are from black communities, and 5.6 per cent of the population is south Asian, yet they are only 1.1 per cent of all donors.

Low figures have been put down to several barriers including limited time to donate, lack of awareness about the problem, fear of needles and religious permissibility – despite no major religion in the UK opposing blood donation.



Abdul Alim – transfusion

Check before travel advice

PASSENGERS are being advised to check before they travel this bank holiday as rail improvement work takes place.

While more than 95 per cent of the railway will be open as usual, over 15,000 members of Network Rail's 'orange army' will be working round the clock to improve the network for millions of passengers.

Bridge improvement work on the A453 Tamworth Road between Four Oaks and Sutton Coldfield in Birmingham will mean buses replace trains between Lichfield and Aston on the Sunday until mid-afternoon.

Martin Frobisher, route managing director for Network Rail, said: "Work takes place 365 days a year as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan but we carry out larger upgrades over bank holidays when there are fewer passengers travelling."

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The Youlls get kitted out for their adventure

Discovering delights of transformed Scottish city

FOR years Glasgow had a rather dubious reputation. It wasn't the obvious place to take a weekend break, for even though it has always had a wealth of beautiful buildings, museums and art galleries – it was a physically dirty place with a high level of violence.

I first visited the city when a student back in the dark ages but with the protection of the then boyfriend – a Glaswegian. He himself was a little wary of some areas and was a very good guide. Not long after that the city fathers made a determined effort to clean up Scotland's second city and over the years the place has been utterly transformed.

Major changes began in 1988 when it was the third UK city in a series of five to host a fantastic Garden Festival attracting people from not just Scotland or the UK but from many other places in the world. The festival was built on deserted dockland alongside the River Clyde and was something I've remembered ever since I visited. Two years later Glasgow was the European City of Culture and people started to think of it as a destination as a tourist.

Now the place is buzzing. Stylish bars, restaurants and shops offer a great social life along with the sumptuous shopping offered! Live music of all genres is to the fore along with theatre and culture – several top rate museums, a fascinating cathedral and the Gothic Necropolis – it started as an open area to be enjoyed and then became the graveyard of the mainly rich. It sits at the top of a hill overlooking St Mungo's with ornate and magnificent statements of the people lying under the ground or inside the imposing mausoleums dotted around. At twilight with sinister shapes standing stark against the darkening sky it can be quite spooky.

And so where to stay to discover this vibrant city? Just a short taxi ride from Glasgow Central Station (you can also easily walk it) is Blythswood Square Hotel, overlooking Blythswood Square on Blythswood Hill!

The history of the area is fascinating. Blythswood Hill was developed as a result of the westward expansion of the city in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Likened to Edinburgh's New Town, it housed the city's wealthy merchants and

shipping magnates in four (or more) floored Georgian townhouses. The centrepiece of the area is Blythswood Square, which was originally intended by the Georgian architects and planners of the time to be the "new" centre of the city, and, although this is largely true from a geographical standpoint, George Square which fronts the Glasgow City Chambers still remains Glasgow's "official" centre.

Blythswood Hill became infamous as the home of Madeleine Smith, a young woman who in 1857 was tried for the murder of her lover Pierre Emile L'Angelier. Although the verdict was not proven the story scandalised Scottish society, and is recounted in Jack House's 1961 book Square Mile of Murder.

Today, relatively few people live in Blythswood Hill, it is now mainly offices and forming, along with neighbouring Ardrossan, Glasgow's financial district. Perhaps the most attractive building in the area is the hotel which began life in 2009 with the conversion of the former RSAC building by the Town House Company. Now holding five stars, it provides a good location for exploration. And it provides first class service and accommodation. The contemporary rooms feature Italian marble bathrooms, tea and coffee making facilities, satellite TV and free WiFi. Suites add separate lounge areas and espresso machines. The penthouse has a private dining room, free minibar and rooftop terrace.

There's a stylish cocktail bar, and a second offering light meals and an afternoon tea of the very best. The modern restaurant serves a mix of classic and a little off-beat cuisine. Of particular note during my dinner were the scallops – crispy on the outside and just warmed through. Perfection. Oh and there was the stunning dessert and I could go on and on. There's an a la carte menu and an excellent Market Menu.

And now to the award-winning spa where facilities include nine treatment rooms, a thermal suite, two relaxation pools and more. It is a place for ultimate relaxation.

To get to my 'destination' I went with Virgin Trains who offer a regular service. If you book in advance you can get a great deal on first class tickets.

By Sharon Walters

Zippering to Wales for a piece of the action

THREE, two, one... go! And with that all too short countdown and every sense of self-preservation screaming 'don't do it' inside your head, it's time to place your faith in a harness and an inch-thick piece of steel wire.

But by now it's too late. You can't go back. It's time to sit back and enjoy the ride.

The ride in question on this occasion is a huge zipwire down the side of a Welsh mountain.

With butterflies dancing the fandango in your stomach, the metal frame disappears and it is just you, the screech of the zipwire and 100ft of air between you and terra firma below.

And my oh my, what a feeling, what a buzz.

Within a second those initial fears evaporate and the adrenaline rush takes over.

Screaming over an old slate mine in Blaenau Ffestionig you're almost as free as a bird. This is pretty much as close to flying as you can get short of growing wings and taking off. And too soon you reach the bottom of the zipwire. Ear-to-ear smiles spread across the faces of myself, wife and the kids as we are uncoupled from the harnesses attaching us to the wires.

"We have to do that again!" is the consensus. And fortunately, this is Zipworld Titan, and there are another two runs to go before we're at the bottom.

Bring it on.

This four-person zipwire is the first of its kind in Europe with thrill-seekers hitting speeds of up to 70mph.

Believe me, this zip is well worth the trip. But this corner of north Wales is not just about flying through the air, there's plenty going on beneath your feet too.

Not least a trip back in time to experience the gruelling lives of the slate miners' whose endeavours shaped this incredible landscape with its scarred mountainsides and vast subterranean caverns.

And what a life it was for those men. A

HOLIDAYS

By Russell Youll

life lived almost completely in darkness, they worked from dawn till dusk underground, more often than not in the pitch black as candles cost money - and they had to provide their own. It's tough to imagine the life of a slate miner but an underground tour at the Llechwed slate caverns shed some, erm, light on their incredible toil.

Sat cheek-by-jowl with Snowdonia and some of the most stunning landscapes on these islands, Blaenau Ffestionig is a raw reminder of how families once eked a living out of the ground beneath their feet.

And it has its own eerie beauty.

And everywhere around this town are reminders of the graft which saw some 13,000 people drawn to the industry at its height in the 19th century - more than double the current population of the town.

And every piece of rock was put there by hand. The scale is incredible. The sights are stunning.

The Ffestionig Railway follows the route of the slate to the harbour from the mines and, from there, to the roofs of myriad buildings around the world. Now, however, it is part of Snowdonia's new major industry and carries tourists rather than slate.

And what a journey it is. Wending its way along mountainsides it hark back to an era of glamour. Pay the extra for a seat in the first class carriage if you can, it's well worth it - you can almost imagine yourself on a miniature Orient Express as the train chugs towards its destination.

Meanwhile, the Snowdon Mountain Railway makes short work getting to the highest point in Wales.

On a clear day, we're told, you can see England, Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Stunning Snowdonia has so much to offer. Our weekend snapshot was a glimpse leaving us needing to see more.

To return to screech down another zipwire, climb another mountain, ride another train. And soon.



Looking down the zipwire which travels over some of the most breathtaking scenery

Ancient treasures from sunken cities and shipwrecks



Roman portrait heads @ Museo archeologico regionale Paolo Orsi di Siracusa

TREASURES found at the bottom of the sea have this year become the icons of popular archaeology with exhibitions in London and Oxford.

Sunken Cities: Egypt's Lost Worlds has been a major success for the British Museum with artefacts submerged for more than a thousand years seeing the light of day again, while in Oxford at Britain's oldest museum, the Ashmolean, visitors come face to face with Treasures From The Sicilian Seas in Storms, Wars and Shipwrecks.

The British Museum's blockbuster exhibition runs until November 27 (tickets £16.50 adults, under 16s free) and includes huge statues and gold jewellery from the lost cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus. The former was a major Nile port and the latter a centre of wor-

ship for the Egyptian gods, before both sank beneath the Mediterranean.

The exhibition shows how Greek and Egyptian cultures blended in these cities and reveals secrets from the mysterious cult of Osiris, god of the underworld.

The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology (part of the University of Oxford) has a fascinating display of items recovered from shipwrecks around the Italian island of Sicily.

Most of these treasures have been uncovered over the last 60 years thanks to the advent of SCUBA diving equipment and pioneering diver-archaeologist Honor Frost.

Sicily has long been the crossroads of the Mediterranean, prized and fought over by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans.

Merchant and war ships representing all these conquerors have come to grief over the centuries along the island's rugged coast and now yield their secrets.

Highlights include an evocative Greek warrior helmet; the bronze battering rams from a Roman fleet; a 'flat-pack' Byzantine marble church that was part of the Emperor Justinian's campaign to spread Christianity; and stone Roman heads (see picture left) probably from a sculptor's studio, which ended up as ship's ballast.

Storms, Wars and Shipwrecks continues at the Ashmolean until September 25 (tickets £10 adults, half-price children and students, plus other concessions).

For further details see the British Museum and Ashmolean Museum websites.

fast theticket



King's here
See Page 21



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Worcester, WR1 3LD.
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Birmingham,
B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Summer Holiday Tile Decorating Workshops
Today, £5
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

Rainbows
Wed,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Storytelling in the Courtyard
Wed,
Aston Hall, Birmingham, B6 6JD.
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Family craft activity: Hand Print Beasts
Wed, £1
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Call 0121 675 4722

Historical Talk Series. David & Pam Humphries - BCT, The Coffin Works and Beyond
Wed,
Gunmakers Arms pub,
Birmingham, B4 6HG.
Call 01686 625041

Wild Storytelling - Ludlow
Wed,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

Chance to Dance
Thu,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Graham Colling - Granary Art Gallery
Thu,
Weston Park,
Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal,
TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Wild Storytelling - Shrewsbury
Thu,
Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH.
Call 01743 284280

MISC. EVENTS

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Chirk Castle, LL14 5AF.
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Power PUP as punks grow up

CANADIAN punky power-pop outfit PUP are promising a blistering show in Birmingham, following the release of their new album *The Dream Is Over*.

The album's title is a riposte to the doctor who told singer and guitarist Stefan Babcock those very words when a cyst was found on his vocal chords.

Some wear and tear was not surprising after the Toronto quartet had played 450 shows over two years in support of the band's self-titled debut album.

But *The Dream Is Over* is very much an affirmation that the dream is still alive. It's brattish blasts of angry nerd rock, fuelled by self-loathing, youthful angst and the desire to escape a small town existence, show that the 20-something rockers haven't lost their mojo... and their lead singer delivers a full-voiced 'up yours' to bleak medical advice.

Touring

Stand out tracks include the anthemic *Pine Point* and *Old Wounds*, while *Can't Win, My Life is Over* & *I Couldn't Be Happier*, and *If This Tour Doesn't Kill You, I Will* mixes loathing and self-deprecation.

Babcock says: "I think that a lot of people in their mid-20s start to feel this sense of disillusionment, realising that maybe life isn't going to turn out exactly as you'd pictured it."

"I love touring and playing music more than anything in the world. But there's also this realisation that maybe the romanticised vision of this



Canadian band PUP are growing up on the road, as heard on their new album

lifestyle I'd imagined ten years ago has little or no relation to the actual experience - waking up in a Walmart parking lot in a van full of dudes and thinking I'm 27, broke and lonely. That's where a lot of these songs come from.

"I think most people eventually

experience that resignation, that acceptance of real life with all its imperfections. It's called growing up."

PUP, who also feature guitarist Steve Sladkowski, bassist Nestor Chumak and drummer Zack Mykula, are in concert at The Rainbow, in Digbeth, Birmingham, on Tuesday.

Knight will play a king

SIR Antony Sher (pictured left) takes on what many regard the 'Mount Everest of roles' when he plays King Lear, which opened this week at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

But 24 'extras', including amateur actors from Birmingham, Solihull and Warwickshire, will also be taking part in the landmark production which runs at Stratford until October 15 and will be screened live in selected cinemas on October 12.

Directed by Royal Shakespeare Company Artistic Director Gregory Doran, the production will transfer to London in November.

Sir Antony's first Shakespeare role with the RSC was as The Fool in *King Lear* in the early 1980s, before he made his name with his celebrated portrayal of Richard III. He has gone on to play Macbeth, Falstaff, Iago, Malvolio, Prospero and Shylock for the RSC. His screen roles have included Disraeli in *Mrs Brown*, Dr Moth in *Shakespeare in Love* and Glickman in TV thriller *The Shadow Line*.

One of Shakespeare's most celebrated plays, *King Lear* has an ageing monarch aiming to live out his days without the burden of power. He shares his kingdom between his children but regrets his decision and has to confront his mistakes.

Written around 1605/06, *King Lear* is considered as one of Shakespeare's great tragedies.

RSC productions of *King Lear* have included many famous actors in the title role, including acting knights John Gielgud, Michael Redgrave, Robert Stephens, Donald Sinden, Nigel Hawthorne, Michael Gambon and Ian McKellen.



Festival style gig at Brum pub venue

SEE six bands for a tenner (if you buy in advance) at Birmingham pub venue the Hare and Hounds on Sunday.

The gig from 4pm to 2am at the Kings Heath High Street venue will be headlined by California art rock twin duo The Garden and Madrid trio The Parrots. Plus, from Brum, come punk duo Table Scraps, rock band Sunshine Frisbee Laserbeam, garage rockers The Castilians, and The Mothers Earth Experiment's psychedelic jazz.

In the H&H's other room that night is reggae band Kioko with a DJ set from Jerry Dammers. See www.hareandhoundsskingheath.co.uk for details.

Camper Calling to pop under canvas

THE festival season continues this weekend with Camper Calling, the three-day family festival that blends music and camping at Ragley Hall in Warwickshire.

1980s favourites ABC, who this year released the long-awaited sequel to their 1982 classic album *The Lexicon of Love*, will top the bill in the grounds of the mansion near Alcester. Also on the bill are The Magic Numbers, The Hoosiers, Toploader, Dodgy, plus tribute acts and circus shows.

Tickets range from £10 for a day pass to £62.50 for the weekend. Visit www.campercalling.com or call 01244 881895.

Casino memories as fans keep faith

THE major Northern Soul event at Bilston this Sunday is going ahead despite the absence of soul legend Dean Parrish.

The New Yorker, famous for Wigan Casino classic *I'm On My Way*, has had to pull out of the soul nostalgia line-up at the Robin 2 because he had to undergo an emergency operation.

However, there is still lots for fans to enjoy with Tommy Hunt, Lorraine Silver and Johnny Boy Pryors joining The Edwin Starr Band led by the late Motown singer's brother Angelo. Plus former Casino DJs including Russ Winstanley. Tickets cost £22 advance (£24 door) with dancing from 5pm to midnight.

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CHOICE



Simon Cowell

The X Factor (ITV, 8pm)

New series. The long-running talent contest returns, bringing with it a reunion for the judging panel, as veterans Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh all reclaim their seats, joining show creator Simon Cowell to assess the latest crop of would-be stars. Also coming back to the X Factor family this year is presenter Dermot O'Leary, who takes over hosting duties from Caroline Flack and Olly Murs. As ever, the contest gets under way with the auditions stage, in which Cowell and co will be expected to successfully identify the stars of tomorrow from the thousands of hopeful competitors taking to the stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen. 11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.10 Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. 2.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final: Hull FC v Warrington Wolves (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.30 Now You See It.

6.00 The Getaway Car. Two brothers from Liverpool, a professional driver and his wife, a father-daughter duo, and two friends from London are among the contestants getting behind the wheel this week.

6.50 BBC News.

7.00 Regional Programme.

7.10 Pointless Celebrities. Hugh Dennis and Pauline McLynn, Charlie Higson and Adli Ray, Richard Gibson and Vicki Michelle, and Jean Fergusson and Tina Malone compete in the unorthodox quiz show.

8.00 Casualty. New series. The long-running medical drama returns with a special, feature-length edition marking the show's 30th anniversary. Beginning right where the previous series left off, Connie and Grace's lives hang in the balance after they were driven off the road and into a ravine by Steph, whose own daughter was taken away by social services following Connie's wedding. Back at the ED, the team plans a surprise party to celebrate Charlie's 30 years at Holby. When news of Connie's accident arrives, the festivities are immediately put on hold, and even old faces who have arrived to mark Charlie's big day offer to lend their expertise.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents as the winning Lotto and Thunderball numbers are revealed. Plus, adaptive rower Nick Beighton prepares for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool and Hull City v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Film: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. (1994)

1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Gardens from Above. (R) **6.50 Film: Mr Lucky.** (1943) **8.25 Film: The Importance of Being Earnest.** (1952) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Tiger. (R) **12.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.45** Bing Crosby: Talking Pictures. **1.25 Film: That's Entertainment!** (1974) Compilation of highlights from MGM musicals, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.30** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.20 Gardeners' World. Monty Don explains how to look after and prune soft fruit, while Frances Tophill visits RHS Rosemoor to catch up on the vegetable trials that she started earlier in the year. (R)

6.50 Proms Extra 2016. Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero and conductor Jules Buckley join Katie Derham to discuss the Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra.

7.30 Greece with Simon Reeve. Part one of two. The presenter takes a tour of Greece, travelling from the islands of the Aegean to Athens and learning how the Greek people are coping with their country's crises. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon is selected to appear in an army training film, but Captain Mainwaring refuses to take part when he finds out his men are to play Nazi soldiers. (R)

9.00 Edinburgh Nights. Kirsty Wark meets comedians who admitted to hastily re-writing their Edinburgh Festival shows to reference to the result of the EU Referendum. Last in the series.

9.30 The Truth Commissioner. In the wake of the formation of Northern Ireland's power-sharing executive, British diplomat Henry Stanfield is appointed to head a South African-style Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, with the aim of settling any lingering resentments over the thousands of deaths that occurred on both sides during the Troubles. His primary concern becomes an investigation into the disappearance of a teenager 20 years previously. However, Stanfield soon finds there are people in power willing to go to any lengths to suppress the truth.

12.20 Film: Kings of Curry. (2013)

11.00 Film: Everlasting Moments. (2008) **2.05** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Murder. **9.30** I Am Team GB. **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Film: Columbus: Last Salute to the Commodore. (1976) **1.30** ITV News; Weather. **1.35** River Monsters. (R) **2.05** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Brendan Fraser.

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Gold. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.

7.00 Go for It. New series. Members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their most unusual skills in unique challenges, with successful contestants claiming a £1,000 prize.

8.00 The X Factor. New series. Dermot O'Leary comes back to the X Factor fold, while Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh rejoin Simon Cowell on the panel as the talent show returns.

9.30 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum. (2007) Amnesiac rogue assassin Jason Bourne's long-buried memories are reawakened by a British journalist researching the secret organisation that was responsible for transforming him into a killing machine. Meanwhile, a ruthless CIA director becomes convinced Bourne is still a security risk, and plans to dispose of him once and for all. Third instalment of the spy thriller series, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Paddy Considine and Albert Finney.

10.35 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum. (2007) Concludes.

11.55 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. The host takes his successful talk show stateside.

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **5.50** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 4

8.55 The Morning Line. **9.55** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **11.25** Salvage SOS. (R) **11.55** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying Live. **2.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Goodwood, Newmarket and Beverley. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.40** Ugly House to Lovely House with George Clarke. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Hidden Britain by Drone.

Tony Robinson presents the first of two programmes using drones to show aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. Among the locations featured is a village on Salisbury Plain that is not listed on any maps, and is used by the military for training. The drones record an exercise involving tanks storming the area. (R)

8.00 The Good Terrorist. Documentary revisiting the controversial crusade of John Harris, the anti-apartheid campaigner whose exemplary reputation in pursuit of equality in South Africa was ruined when, in 1964, he placed a bomb in a Johannesburg station. His actions resulted in the death of a 77-year-old woman, and the severe burning of her young granddaughter. While Harris' actions up to this point had included helping to ensure South Africa would be barred from the Olympics, the 1964 bombing horrified the country. Harris was hanged eight months later, becoming the only white political prisoner to be executed in four decades of apartheid. More than 50 years later, this film makes use of Harris's own home videos to tell his story, from the perspective of those who knew him, and documents a momentous encounter in the K between Harris's son and the now grown youngster who was maimed by his bomb.

9.00 Film: Last Vegas. (2013) Hangover. Comedy, starring Michael Douglas.

11.05 Film: Hot Tub Time Machine. (2010) Sci-fi comedy, starring John Cusack and Clark Duke.

1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollywood. (R) **3.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.50** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** The Fairly OddParents. **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.00** Murdered: Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **1.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.

Paul and Phil expect a routine eviction, but get more than they bargained for, while Stewart and Victor hunt down £66,000 owed by a businessman. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Pakistan. Action from the second one-day international of the five-match series, which took place at Lord's. Presented by Mark Nicholas, with commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Simon Hughes.

8.00 The World's Fastest Train. Exploring four historic engineering breakthroughs that paved the way for France's TGV, which regularly reaches speeds of 200mph on some services and has been pushed to nearly 360mph in special tests. The programme looks at four key steps in the development of high-speed technology, including George Stephenson's 19th-century Rocket and the Japanese Bullet Train. (R)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Birmingham City v Norwich City, and Newcastle United v Brighton & Hove Albion.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two.

10.30 The Funny Thing About Dating. Host Johnnie Vegas offers an uproariously silly, insightful and frank look at the difficult business of finding love in the 21st century.

11.30 Impractical Jokers UK. Friends David, Matt, Lee and Paul have to convince a stranger to go to the toilet with them, and work on the front desk of a central London youth hostel.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 David Attenborough's Zoo Quest in Colour **8.30** The Return of Flying Scotsman **9.00** Beck: In the Name of God **10.30** Forever Young - How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up **11.30** Red Hot Chili Peppers at Reading Festival 2015 **1.00** Cat Heroes at the RSC **2.00** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.40** Forever Young - How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up **3.40** Close

ITV2

12.55 Catchphrase **1.45** Re-Educating Joey Essex: GCSE Special **2.45** Film: What a Girl Wants (2003) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: What a Girl Wants (2003) **4.50** The X Factor: Top Ten Success Stories **5.50** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55** Film: Evan Almighty (2007) **7.50** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **8.50** FYI Daily **8.55** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **9.30** The X Factor Live **10.30** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Movie **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV4**

12.50 Film: That's Carry On (1978) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: That's Carry On (1978) **2.40** Film: The Young Victoria (2015) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45** Film: The Young Victoria (2015) **4.45** Foyles War **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.10 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **12.15** Film: Destróy (1954) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: Destróy (1954) **2.10** Film: The Rawhide Years (1956) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** Film: The Rawhide Years (1956) **4.00** Film: Superman (1978) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20** Film: Superman (1978) **7.00** Series of Darts: Perth **11.30** Film: Transporter 3 (2008) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: Transporter 3 (2008) **1.35** Highway Patrol **2.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30** Film: Turner & Hooch (1989) **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Mirror Mirror (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.00** Ride Tube **2.00** Broke Girls **2.50** Angle Tribeca **3.15** Gogglebox **Film4**

1.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **2.50** Thunderbirds (2004) **4.40** 17 Again (2009) **6.45** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **9.00** The Heart (2013) **11.20** Predator 2 (1990) **1.30** Byzantium (2012) **3.55** Close

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CHOICE



Victoria (ITV, 9pm)
New series. In 1838, at the age of 18, young princess Alexandrina's life is transformed when she ascends the throne of Great Britain and becomes Queen Victoria. As monarch in her own right, the young Victoria suddenly finds herself freed of the repressive shackles placed on her by her mother's advisor, Conroy, and builds a new alliance with the charismatic prime minister Lord Melbourne. However, her inexperience makes her susceptible to mistakes – and ultimately scandal. Period drama, starring Jenna Coleman.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Continent. (R) **2.15** Summer: Earth's Seasonal Secrets. (R) **3.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Joe Crowley meets a tenant farmer to see what sort of problem he faces working on the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge, while Anita Rani visits reconstructions of neolithic houses. Including weather for the week ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire, where a collection of rare figures and dolls turns out to be a find of national importance. **9.00** Are You Being Served? Young Mr Grace seeks to modernise the department store. Remake of the celebrated sitcom, starring Sherrie Hewson, Jason Watkins, John Challis and Mathew Horne. Part of the Landmark Comedy Sitcom season. **9.30** Porridge. Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais' updated version of their prison comedy, starring Kevin Bishop as the grandson of wily old lag Fletcher. With Ralph Ineson and Mark Bonnar. Part of the Landmark Comedy Sitcom season. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium and West Bromwich Albion v Middlesbrough at the Hawthorns. **11.25** Comedy Connections. The story behind department store-based sitcom Are You Being Served? The programme reveals how Joanna Lumley and a Piccadilly shop inspired the much-loved series. (R) **11.55** Comedy Connections. The story behind prison-based sitcom Porridge. (R) **12.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **11.15** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **11.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **2.00** Film: None But the Brave. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Kate Humble: My Sheepdog and Me. (R) **5.30** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **6.00** Highlands: Scotland's Wild Heart. Following the efforts being made by scientists, conservationists and local people in the Highlands as they work to repair the damage of the past and rebuild wild landscapes and habitats. The programme meets Dave Anderson from Forestry Commission Scotland and his colleague Simon Smith as they tag and monitor red kite and osprey chicks, gaining a unique perspective of the lives of the birds before they fly the nest. Cameras also capture the efforts of the Scottish Wildcat Action Plan team, as well as Paul Lister's project to reintroduce wolves and bears to his Alladale Wilderness Reserve. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? In the second of two programmes, poodles and pussies are tested in training skills, independence and their capacity for love. Presented by Chris Packham and Liz Bonnin. (R) **8.00** Robot Wars. Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the final, featuring the five heat winners and one of the runners-up. Last in the series. **9.00** Dragons' Den. A merchant navy officer-turned-product designer demonstrates his tablet holder, and two proud parents pitch their organic skincare product for babies. Presented by Evan Davis. **10.00** Fleabag. Dumped by her emotionally fragile boyfriend, Fleabag attempts to rekindle romantic fires to distract her from the mayhem of her life. **10.30** Murder in Successville. **11.00** Film: Up There. (2012) **12.15** Film: Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky. (2009) **2.05** Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** Film: Columbo: Troubled Waters. (1975) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.20** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.25** The Chase. (R) **3.25** The X Factor. (R) **4.55** Film: Despicable Me. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell. **6.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Ellie Simmonds: Swimming with Dolphins. The gold-medal winning Paralympic swimmer takes a break from training region to conquer her fear of the open ocean and fulfil her childhood dream of swimming with wild dolphins. **8.00** The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents as the opening weekend auditions continue. **9.00** Victoria. New series. Period drama, charting the 18-year-old Queen Victoria's struggle to mature into a formidable ruler capable of building an empire. **10.35** ITV News: Weather. **10.50** Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones. The comedian makes five train journeys taking in the spectacular sights of Africa, travelling to unexpected places in deserts and forests, villages and cities, and finding out how the railways are used today. On the fourth leg of his journey across the continent, Griff travels across Namibia in the south-west, experiencing luxury camping, encountering cheetahs, and visiting 1,000-foot sand dunes. (R) **11.45** Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the greater the prize fund. The player who has won the most amount is then eliminated, and the last one standing competes for a £10,000 jackpot. (R) **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.30 Frasier. (R) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 13th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **4.00** Guy Martin's Passion for Life. (R) **4.30** Location. Location. Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Posh Pawn. James Constantinou sets sail on the high seas in a historic boat, the owner of which is seeking £750,000 to fulfil his dream of becoming a well-known children's author. Meanwhile, Lawrence is tasked with selling an original Kerry Darlington painting for a memorable returning client, and Essex girl Lucy needs an urgent loan to pay for her mother's funeral, and seeks to secure the money she requires using a diamond ring that has been in her family for generations. **8.00** Prehistoric Mega Beasts: Croc v Snake. Documentary investigating the unexpected discoveries made during a mining operation in Cerrejón, northern Colombia, where excavations have uncovered evidence of a prehistoric world filled with giant creatures. The largest of these was the titanochoa, a 43-foot snake that appeared to be unmatched in either size or strength. However, further findings in the region indicate that the titanochoa's supremacy may have been challenged by a giant crocodilian creature, and scientists conduct a close examination of fossilised remains to determine which of the two ruled this ancient animal kingdom. **9.00** The Big Fat Quiz of Everything. Noel Fielding, Eddie Izzard, Alan Carr, Chelsea Peretti, Romesh Ranganathan and Dara O Briain are quizzed by Jimmy Carr on the past 100,000 years of history, with topics ranging from politics to pop music, fashion to film and art to animals. Jimmy is aided by regulars Jon Snow, the children of Mitchell Brook Primary School and Joey Essex, as well as a whole host of famous question setters. Last in the series. **10.35** Film: The Watch. (2012) **12.40** Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix Highlights. **1.40** Friday Night Dinner. (R) **2.05** Walking the Himalayas. (R) **3.00** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.05** Access. (R) **12.10** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.10** Film: Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **3.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.00** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **5.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **6.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Dave Spikely and Zoe Lyons introduce videos from the internet featuring animals doing bizarre and humorous things, with the first edition focusing on cats. (R) **7.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. Compilation of internet videos featuring children doing bizarre and humorous things. **8.00** Can't Pay? Benefits Special. The agents grapple with emotional evictions and moral dilemmas, focusing on people who have fallen into debt and those tasked with recovering the money. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** The Most Shocking Moments of the 00s. Key moments and clips from the decade, featuring Justin Bieber's antics, Lady Gaga's meat dress and Britney Spears' meltdown. Reality TV programmes come to the fore, including George Galloway's turn as a cat in Celebrity Big Brother which shocked the nation, to Katie Price and Peter Andre's love affair on I'm a Celebrity! Featuring contributions from Louis Walsh, Liz McClarnon, Shaun Ryder and Bez, Matt Richardson, Jimmy Bullard, Nish Kumar, Sinitta, Kerry Katona and Kate Lawler. **11.55** Tattoo Disasters UK. The stories of more people who regret tattoos and are taking steps to get them removed, including a make-up artist who has one dedicated to friends he no longer sees. (R) **12.50** Lip Sync Battle: Walking Dead Special. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Suspects: The Enemy Within. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2016: Barenboim Conducts the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra **9.30** Sounds of the Eighties **10.00** Eisteddfod 2016 with Will Gompertz **10.30** Billy Glyro at Reading Festival 2016 **12.00** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.00** Horizon: Playing God **2.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **3.00** Sounds of the Eighties **3.25** Close **ITV2**
12.00 The X Factor **1.30** The Xtra Factor Live **2.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.00** Film: Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** Film: Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.55** Film: Bean (1997) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: Bean (1997) **6.45** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Bordertown **12.50** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV3**
11.00 Goodnight Mister Tom **1.10** Lewis **5.10** Film: Anne of Green Gables (2015) **7.00** Midsummer Murders **9.00** The Investigator: A British Crime Story **1.05** Wire in the Blood **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.30** Rising Damp **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
5.45 Silverstone Classic **6.45** British Touring Cars - Crashes and Smashes **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Mr Bean **9.00** Film: Resident Evil (2002) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Resident Evil (2002) **11.10** Film: Don't Say a Word (2001) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Don't Say a Word (2001) **1.25** Highway Patrol **1.55** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.00 Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza **2.35** The Goldbergs **4.30** Film: ParaNorman (2012) **6.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.30** Gogglebox **1.05** Containment **2.05** New Girl **2.30** First Dates **3.25** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 Honey, I Shrank the Kids (1989) **1.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **2.45** Rio (2011) **4.35** Tooth Fairy (2010) **6.45** GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) **9.00** X-Men: First Class (2011) **11.35** Insidious (2010) **1.40** Insidious: Chapter 2 (2013) **3.55** Close



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Sunday 4th
September 2016
10.30am - 3.00pm

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Thor: The Dark World, BBC1, 8.30pm

The alien thunder god returns to Earth when a powerful weapon from the dawn of time is discovered. The device attracts the attention of an old enemy of his people, who intends to use it to plunge the universe into darkness – and to stop him, Thor must form an uneasy alliance with his treacherous brother Loki. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston and Natalie Portman. (2013)

Schindler's List, Channel 5, 10pm

During the Second World War, German businessman Oskar Schindler strives to save Jews destined for the concentration camps by employing them in his factory – an act of mercy made possible by a deal struck with a sadistic German commandant. Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning drama, starring Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley and Ralph Fiennes. (1993)



Thor: The Dark World, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY

DOA, BBC1, 11.45pm

A burned-out college professor is accused of murdering his wife's lover, and tries to cope by going on an all-night drinking binge – but wakes to discover someone has slipped him a fatal poison, leaving him with just 24 hours to find his would-be killer. Remake of the 1950 thriller, with Dennis Quaid. (1988)

THURSDAY

Shine, BBC1, 11.30pm

Biopic of Australian prodigy David Helfgott, the talented but fragile pianist who suffered a nervous breakdown and battled years of mental illness, along with the pressures of an overbearing father obsessed with success. Overcoming the psychological damage, he succeeded in putting his life back together and eventually settled in a loving relationship. Starring Geoffrey Rush and Armin Mueller-Stahl. (1996)

FRIDAY

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, ITV, 10.40pm

The hapless journalist's new romance looks set to be short-lived when she ends up serving time in a Thai prison. Comedy sequel, starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and Hugh Grant. (2004)

Will Home be where the heart is for Neil?

It's 60 years since Hancock's Half Hour made the leap from the radio to the small screen, and in the process became British TV's first great home-grown sitcom.

And that's all the excuse the BBC needed to launch a new season celebrating the genre, and looking back at some of the other much-loved comedies that have amused us over the years.

This week alone there are new versions of Are You Being Served, Porridge and Goodnight Sweetheart (as well as a prequel to Keeping Up Appearances entitled Young Hyacinth), while we'll also soon be seeing new casts recreate the scripts for 'lost' episodes of Stepfather and Son, Till Death Us Do Part and the aforementioned Hancock's Half Hour.

But if that's left you wondering where the much-loved classic sitcoms of tomorrow are going to come from, never fear – BBC Two is out to prove that the genre is still in rude health with a string of pilots, including tonight's Home from Home.

On paper, all the new one-offs look

promising – Peep Show's Paterson Joseph and Robert Webb are starring in The Coopers vs The Rest and Our Ex Wife respectively, while award-winning stand-up comedian James Acaster is behind We the Jury.

Motherland practically groans with class, as its writers include Graham Linehan (Father Ted and The IT Crowd) and Sharon Horgan (Catastrophe, Pulling).

However, as seasoned sitcom watchers know, no matter how good the pedigrees of everyone involved, sometimes a comedy also needs that little bit of extra unpredictable magic to succeed.

So, let's all keep our fingers crossed for Home From Home, which stars a couple of actors who know a thing or two about crowd-pleasing sitcoms – Johnny Vegas, who has logged in plenty of hours by the pool in ITV's Benidorm, and Joanna Page, aka the female half of Gavin & Stacey.

They star as married couple Neil and Fiona Hackett, who, after years of scrimping and saving, have finally made their long-cherished dream of

owning a lodge in the Lake District a reality.

At first it seems that their 'traditional' lodge at Lake View Holiday Park has been worth all the hard work and sacrifices – but that's before they meet their new neighbours, Robert (Adam James) and Penny Dillon (Emilia Fox).

Robert is outdoorsy, while Penny is glamorous and louche, and Neil can't help feeling that the Dillons are superior to the Hacketts in every way.

Fiona is willing to put any feelings of inferiority to one side and join their new neighbours for a 'getting to know you' barbecue, but her husband is less convinced.

However, when the sangria starts flowing, it seems that everyone loosens up – which may not be a good idea as Neil commits the ultimate faux pas...

It remains to be seen whether Home From Home will be so successful that someone will be recreating it in 2078, but here's hoping it gets to become a series.



Home from Home, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Great British Menu

BBC2, 7.30pm

New series. The culinary competition returns with chefs battling it out for the opportunity to cook at a banquet held at the Palace of Westminster celebrating ordinary Britons honoured by the Queen, with the contenders being challenged to showcase contemporary cuisine and demonstrate the transformation in British food during Elizabeth II's reign. The contest begins with entrants all representing Scotland for the first time, with Adam Handling, Michael Bremner and Ally McGrath preparing their starters.

Celebrity Home Secrets

ITV, 8pm

New series. Famous faces revisit their former homes to share their memories and secrets from when they lived there, beginning with actor Nigel Havers. He goes to the London flat where he lived when he got his first professional job aged 15, and where Mick Jagger and Keith Richards attended a celebratory party in 1967 after Nigel's father Michael Havers QC represented them at the Court of Appeal. He also goes to the basement flat in Fulham where he was living when he got his first big break in BBC mini-series A Horseman Riding By.

TUESDAY

New York: America's Busiest City

BBC2, 9pm

New series. Ade Adepitan, Anita Rani, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow take a closer look at one of the most complex and powerful cities in the world, focusing on transport links in the first edition. Anita, Ade and Ant head to Grand Central Terminal, joining the daily commute on the iconic Staten Island ferry as well as the subway, suburban railroad and citi bikes. Dan visits Times Square to see how the 230 LED advertising hoardings are maintained, while Ade takes a ride in a yellow cab, discovering that the business model is under threat from newly created taxi apps.

WEDNESDAY

All Star Mr & Mrs

ITV, 8pm

There may be tougher quizzes, but few that have quite so much potential to provoke a previously happy couple into having a row on national TV. So, we should be impressed that ITV have found enough celebrities ready

to prove how much (or how little) they know about their other halves to make a new series. Clearly, the chance to win £30,000 for their chosen charity is a big incentive. The first famous faces to take the plunge are Emmerdale's Adam Thomas and his fiancée Caroline Daly. Strictly dancers Kevin and

Karen Clifton and Dad's Army star Ian Lavender and his wife Michele Hardy. As ever, Phillip Schofield will be asking the questions, but hopefully he won't have to act as referee as well.

THURSDAY

Ingenious Animals

BBC1, 8pm

New series. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and a team of wildlife experts travel the globe in search of the most surprising animal stories and reveal how and why animals do such remarkable things. The first episode explores the world of animal intelligence, with Hugh visiting Florida to investigate an unexpected relationship

between an alligator and a manatee, which has animal intelligence experts baffled. Plus, conservationist Giles Clark finds out if elephants can feel empathy – one of the most sophisticated forms of emotional intelligence.

FRIDAY

Would I Lie to You?

BBC1, 8.30pm

New series. The comedy panel show makes a welcome return, with the hotseat once again occupied by Welsh comedian Rob Brydon. This opening instalment of the tenth series sees team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack joined by guests Bake Off co-host Mel Giedroyc, heavyweight boxer David Haye, actor-musician Martin Kemp and comedian Romesh Ranganathan. As usual, the participants aim to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves in a bid to secure a team victory and the dubious honour of being dubbed the liar of the week.

Lady C and the Castle

ITV, 9pm

The restoration of Castle Goring in Sussex, which was derelict when purchased by Lady Colin Campbell, who had plans to transform it into an upmarket venue for weddings and events.

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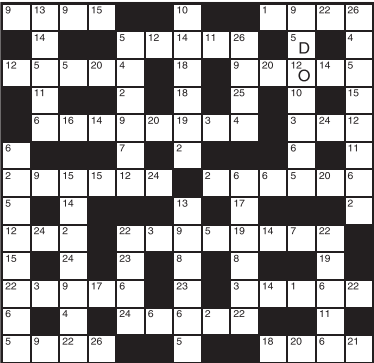
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CHRONICLE

BRAIN GYM No.392

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
I X N M R F Y S V Q E H J
P O W K U T D A G L Z B C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

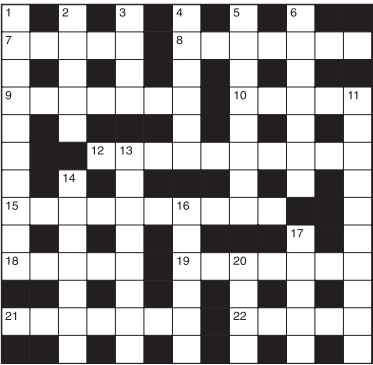
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. Is about to study pictures (5)
- 8. Its quarters are hardly spotless (7)
- 9. Hands over and retires (5,2)
- 10. The hump in the middle of bridges (5)
- 12. Correctly positioned climbers are well advised to take it! (5,3,2)
- 15. Get to grips, but in friendly fashion (5,5)
- 18. Delay and yield to another's wishes (5)
- 19. In a suit designed for a hot country (7)
- 21. A facial expression - a sinister one (7)
- 22. Cultivated Scandinavian (5)

Down

- 1. Died with heart strain - in great pain? (10)
- 2. One will be anxious to do it (5)
- 3. Goddess is repeatedly put down (4)
- 4. Embrace that really fixes things (6)
- 5. Having got more on loan, you end up in debt (8)
- 6. There are thirty-one of these distress calls (7)
- 11. Fresh sand, please, for use by the sea (10)
- 13. Sweet rice came out of it (3-5)
- 14. A month, just, in London (7)
- 16. The country girl (6)
- 17. Remains precisely how he is (5)
- 20. Egg production centre (4)



Quick Clues:

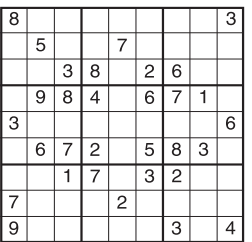
Across

- 7. Smell (5)
- 8. Stamp (7)
- 9. Curtain (7)
- 10. Cold (5)
- 12. Trial place (5,2,3)
- 15. Vivacity (10)
- 18. Shoot (5)
- 19. Windpipe (7)
- 21. Coach (7)
- 22. Shelf (5)

Down

- 1. Policemen (10)
- 2. Machine (5)
- 3. Annoying child (4)
- 4. Victor (6)
- 5. Roomy (8)
- 6. Readable (7)
- 11. Criminal (3-7)
- 13. Considerate (8)
- 14. Exceeded (7)
- 16. Essence (6)
- 17. Rebuke (5)
- 20. Skilled (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	9	7	1	8	5	6	2
7	5	1	9	6	2	4	8	3
8	6	2	4	3	5	9	1	7
4	3	6	1	7	9	2	5	8
2	7	8	3	5	4	1	9	6
9	1	5	8	2	6	3	7	4
1	6	3	2	5	7	6	4	5
6	9	7	5	4	3	8	2	1
5	2	4	6	8	1	7	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bean-feast; 8 Ion; 9 Army canteen; 11 Penalty; 12 Drear; 13 Little; 15 People; 17 Cabot; 18 Sea-salt; 20 On one's knees; 22 Ark; 23 Falsehood. Down: 2 Ear; 3 Focal; 4 Annoys; 5 Treadle; 6 Dinner plate; 7 Insurgent; 10 Minute-books; 11 Policeman; 14 Lets off; 16 As well; 19 Ankle; 21 Ego. QUICK - Across: 1 Elemental; 8 Rub; 9 Determinate; 11 Immerse; 12 Scour; 13 Breach; 15 Invite; 17 Learn; 18 Appear; 20 Educational; 22 Can; 23 Tasteless. Down: 2 Lie; 3 Error; 4 Told; 5 Liaison; 6 Premonition; 7 Abhorrent; 10 Temperament; 11 Imbalance; 14 Conduct; 16 Harass; 19 Pride; 21 Ass.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Which bird has golden and argus varieties?
- 2. Which Scottish group had a No. 1 hit single in 1992 with Goodnight Girl?
- 3. In which constellation is Deneb the brightest star?
- 4. After which French city is denim named?
- 5. Which supermodel 'wrote' the novel Swan?
- 6. Of which place was Baron Hailsham baron?
- 7. Of what is a magneto a simple example?
- 8. In which US city is the Grand Old Opry?
- 9. Who succeeded John Monks as general secretary of the TUC in 2003?
- 10. What sort of creature is a loon?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Fu Manchu; 2 Tenerife; 3 Treasure Island; 4 The atomic bomb; 5 M; 6 Archbishop of York; 7 Richard Burton; 8 Crows; 9 Boxing; 10 John Cleese. Niner: SCRAMBLED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6542 gives a girl's name,
8332 gives a second girl's name,
89712 gives a third girl's name.



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Tom Odell belts out a top tune



Travis's Fran Healy delighted the crowd



Justin Bieber performs with his dancers



Rick Astley, loving the atmosphere



Little Mix, who certainly couldn't be accused of dressing down

Justin time for a V-ariety of music



Kaiser Chiefs' Ricky Wilson

FROM the top of the bill to the bottom V Festival offered up a musical feast to keep the masses in high spirits all weekend.

Before the 70,000 festival goers were let in to Weston Park all the talk was regarding the main stage headliners.

Organisers pushed the boat out to get Justin Bieber over to the UK for the weekend, but fan speculation had mounted in the days leading up to the festival that he may pull out. Following his 'disappearance' from Instagram, Beliebers took to social media to express

their concern that their idol was in a bad place and would leave V with a huge gap in its line-up.

They need not have worried, as Bieber showed up to deliver a greatest hits set to an adoring, enormous crowd.

It was a fitting way to close proceedings on the Shropshire and Staffordshire border, with those who chose this leg over the Essex counterpart sure to have felt like they had claimed a small victory in getting the megastar to end their weekend. One thing that was notable by its absence, for the most part, was the rain.

So often the downfall of the whole festival experience, other

than a few showers on Saturday, the Midland crowd got to enjoy a healthy amount of sunshine, especially on Sunday.

Rihanna took to the stage in the dark of night on Saturday to give a huge crowd a party they will never forget. The superstar singer took things to another level with her eye-popping show.

For those who fancied something a bit different at the end of their nights, the MTV stage was headlined by indie heroes Kaiser Chiefs on Saturday and dance legends Faithless on Sunday.

As has become customary for V in recent years, a contrast between the worlds of pop and rock

was visible. Travis and Jake Bugg both attracted large crowds of die hard and casual fans. Travis frontman Fran Healy brought the crowd to life, even climbing the barrier at one point to get amongst it.

In between all of this was Tom Odell, whose unique voice and gorgeous songs gave everyone a chance to catch their breath, while Little Mix kept those eager to keep the party going entertained on the main stage.

Sunday's nostalgia kick came in the shape of Rick Astley, with Jess Glynne bringing us back up to date, with Stormzy and Bastille setting up the crowd for Justin's V-ry spectacular finale.



Rihanna striking a pose as one of the headline acts

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Newburn Croft

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Offers in the region of £299,950



Oldbury



Apsley Road

- * Spacious extended semi-detached house
- * Extended living room * Dining room
- * Extended kitchen/breakfast room
- * Two bedrooms (potential to create third bedroom) * Re-fitted shower room
- * Garage * Good size rear garden EPC=C

Offers in the region of £199,950



Rowley Regis



Halesowen Street

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- * Semi detached house
- * Two bedrooms * Re-fitted shower room and breakfast kitchen
- * Conservatory EPC=D

Offers in the region of £134,950



Halesowen



Halesowen Road

- * Three bedroom house
- * Full of potential
- * Two reception rooms
- * Extensive rear garden
- * No upward chain

Offers in the region of £209,950



Halesowen



Chantry Drive

- * Detached bungalow
- * Two bedrooms
- * Conservatory
- * Garage
- * NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers in the region of £199,950



Rowley Regis



Regis Road

- * Extended Semi Detached
- * Three Bedrooms
- * Refitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- * Refitted Shower Room
- * Garage
- * Good Sized Rear Garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £144,950



Halesowen



Hurst Green Road

- * Semi-detached house situated on corner plot.
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * Off road parking

Offers in the region of £149,950



Halesowen



Vicarage Road

- * Terraced house
- * Kitchen and lobby
- * Ground floor bathroom
- * Three bedrooms
- * Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £106,950

Oldbury



Oak Road

- * Dining room * Living room
- * Former garage/family room
- * Kitchen and utility
- * Bedroom two with en-suite
- * Four further bedrooms
- * Family bathroom EPC=D

Offers in the region of £325,000

Halesowen



King Charles Road

- * Spacious traditional style semi-detached house
- * Two reception rooms
- * Three bedrooms * Garage
- * Good-sized garden * Sought after location
- * Full of potential
- * No upward chain EPC=E

Offers in the region of £249,950



Quinton



Upper Meadow Road

- * Semi-detached house which must be viewed * Through room comprising dining room and living room
- * Conservatory * Three bedrooms
- * Re-fitted bathroom * Rear garage
- * Delightful rear garden EPC=D

Offers in the region of £169,950

Halesowen



Beaumont Road

- * Two bedroom terraced house
- * Two reception rooms
- * Ground floor bathroom & first floor shower room
- * Rear garden

Offers in the region of £124,950

Halesowen



Narrow Lane

- * Spacious Detached house
- * Three reception rooms
- * Study* Downstairs wc and utility
- * Five bedrooms one with en-suite
- * Bathroom
- * Pleasant garden and garage. EPC=E

Offers in the region of £304,950

Halesowen Hurst Green



Fairfield Road

- * Detached bungalow
- * Block paved driveway
- * Open plan kitchen/living room
- * Utility
- * Two bedrooms
- * Shower room EPC=D

Offers in the region of £154,950

Halesowen



Lodge Close

- * Spacious four bedroom detached house.
- * Lounge, dining room and study.
- * Two en-suites, house bathroom.
- * Fitted kitchen leading to conservatory.
- * Enclosed gardens
- * Double garage, utility room. EPC=C

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Carters Lane

- * Detached family house extended at rear
- * Three reception rooms * Kitchen (utility, shower room, and store formed out of garage) * Three bedrooms
- * Bathroom with separate wc
- * Pleasant gardens EPC=E

Offers in the region of £275,000

Halesowen



Hagley Road West

- * Deceptively Spacious Detached family home * Four good sized bedrooms
- * Large lounge/dining room
- * Breakfast room leading onto kitchen
- * Tandem garage * Beautiful rear garden with southerly aspect. EPC=F

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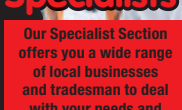
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Black-gold

Viners Sauté Pan

Only £29.99 Was £69.99

SAVE
£40

Perfect for family meals and one-pot cooking, this large 3.96 litre capacity non-stick pan is a great addition to your kitchen cookware. Sautéing and frying meals has never been easier with the non-stick ceramic interior. The pan is made from induction-compatible stainless steel with a glass lid. It is dishwasher-safe and suitable for use on all hob types. Use in the oven without the lid. Comes with a five-year guarantee. Diameter: 30cm.

D8552 Viners Sauté Pan

Aluminium Wallets

ONLY £9.99 Was £19.99



Protect your cards from mobile RFID scanners. Made from lightweight yet durable aluminium these wallets will protect from fraudsters and their scanning equipment. With a stylish brushed aluminium finish, they are secured shut with a durable one touch clip. Practically indestructible, they will protect your cards from scratches and bending. This stylish unisex wallet will hold up to 12 cards and folded notes. Measures 11 x 7.5 x 1.7cm and weighs just 70 grams.

D5670
SilverD5859
RedD6334
BlueD5849
BlackD6335
Red dotD6309
FlowerBUY ANY
TWO FOR
£14.99

Order Hotline 0871 911 7011*

8am-8pm, 7 days a week. *Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Quote
64473Order online at
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funeral directors

N.E.DOWNING
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors

24 hour service
Halesowen
0121 422 2794

www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

LOST—Black female whippet in the Wombourne area, August 16. Please call 07854 616074.

LOST—Tortoiseshell older cat in Featherstone area. 07878 427199.

MISSING SYMBA
All black Cat, ten months old, last seen Thursday, August 18, Worcester Lane/Oakley Road, Oldswinford, chipped, no collar.
Please telephone
01384 396481.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

ELECTRIC SCOOTER CHAIR.
Used twice. As new. Cost £750. Sell £375. No offers. 07765 081419. PM, Dudley.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Excellent condition. Four wheels. Fits easily in a car boot. Great for shopping, holidays and days out. Can deliver. £275.
07905 770683.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £795. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

camping equipment

PENINE FIESTA
4-berth folding camper, 2005, excellent condition, full awning, integral fridge, stove and sink. £2,600 ono.
01543 278472.

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
Caravans 35x12 DG & CH from £15,000. 11 month holiday season. 01584823433. www.bcpark.co.uk

ABI ACE Globe Trotter, 1996, 2 berth, good condition, £1500. including accessories.
01364 350862

AWNING Pyramid 925cm, burgundy, suit 17ft van, groundsheet, little use, £95 ono. 07725 555170

BAILEY SENATOR INDIANA SERIES 6
2008, good condition, well looked after with all accessories plus van mover, porch awning £7,500
01902 676926.

BK CONTESSA
Bluebird, 2003, Static, 26ft x 12ft, Caravan, 2 bedroom, 6-berth, sighted close near to the river in Worcester.
Very good condition.
£8,500 ovno. 01691 659071 or 07583 629907.

STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10
6-berth with decking, Mid Wales. Site fees paid for 2016. Dog friendly.
£4,250 ono.
07922 351352. No texts.

caravans wanted

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED.
no objection to work, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything considered. New or Old 01902 754011 or 07931 568716

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday 28th August

KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE
D17 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

sports & leisure

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

self catering holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

3 Home & Services

furniture

CONSERVATORY 2 1/2
SEATER CANE SETTEE
and one chair, modern 2014 design, excellent condition, down sizing forces reluctant sale.
£495 ono.
07963 452723.

TWO DRAWER single divan bed, hardly used, £35. 2 cream chest of drawers, natural pine tops / handles £40. Excellent 07835 387986.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Maccroft • Lead • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
• 47 silver coins All over medals etc.
• anything OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

IT WORKS FOR ME

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

external rendering / insulation
50% OF ALL EXTERNAL RENDERING, small jobs no problem, fully guaranteed 07891 920567

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
10 years of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards, HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

garden services

FREE UP SPACE
GARAGES AND SHEDS CLEARED
Call: 07956 391885

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

JAY'S MAINTENANCE General fencing and garden maintenance Call: Jay 07890 874823

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

painters / decorators

DECORATOR
ALL domestic work undertaken
Reliable & Affordable
Special rates for OAPs
No job too SMALL
Call
07957 346 059

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. Home/Garden improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices. Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

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07771 727119

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices. Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

5tounbridge Removals

20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office, Part loads, landlord clean & repair service. House clearances. Quality service guaranteed lowest rates

Call John - 07802 876 876 office - 01562 640 640

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

IT WORKS FOR ME

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

**4
Pets & Animals**

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

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Paul Westwood

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50% OF ALL EXTERNAL RENDERING, small jobs no problem, fully guaranteed 07891 920567

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KT REMOVALS
12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

5 Business & Farming

farm machinery

CATTLE TRAILER Unused for three years. 12ft x 6ft. Aluminium floor. Partition. 01902 883037.

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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ClassifiedAds

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

WE PAY 100% of purchase price

We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND

0800 999 999 6

or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED

COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT

FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS

FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE

LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY

for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

0121 405 0797

OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

*Terms and Conditions apply

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

APARTMENT TWO bed, 1 ensuite, close to Wolverhampton City Centre. 07831 847211.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen. £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single. £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07570 717139 or 07940 116130.

SUPERIOR BEDSIT DUDLEY. Refurb'd to high standard. £70pw, 07581 003289, 01384 253052.

UPSTAIRS fully furnished one bed flat, Oxley area, £95 p/w. Ready now. 01902 238770.

houses for sale

COMPTON, WOLVERHAMPTON
Detached 4 bedroom home, York Avenue, Compton, WV3. Please call for full details. £309,000. 07931 402220

CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE

Real opportunities for you

jobs.expressandstar.com

Are you customer focused? Want to progress into sales?

The MNA, publishers of the Express & Star and Shropshire Star, is looking for talented people to join its sales across the West Midlands and Shropshire. The role involves advising and selling response focused advertising solutions to a diverse range of businesses across our newspaper and digital portfolio.

Key responsibilities and skills should ideally include:

- The ability to develop a firm business relationship with customers
- Be able to generate new business
- The desire to exceed minimum sales targets
- Be creative and articulate
- Be able to identify the best advertising opportunities that will enhance a customer's marketing response.

You will already have a proven track record in sales, or have high levels of customer service skills. However, if you feel you have an outgoing and friendly personality and would like the opportunity to move into a fast paced business, then we can train you to succeed in the role.

Once fully qualified, you can expect to earn a good basic salary and an attractive OTE potential. Benefits include a company car for Field Sales, five weeks paid holiday, full training and ongoing side by side coaching. There are good career prospects for the right candidates to progress through to Senior Sales Consultants within the team.

Please send your C.V., along with a covering letter to:

Personnel Department
Midland News Association
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Or apply by email to: hr@mnamedia.co.uk

Closing date: 31st August 2016.

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Shropshire Newspapers Ltd

8

Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 320i M Sport
57 plate, Saloon, Le Mans blue, manual, 92,000 miles, FSH, MOT'd till October, petrol, drives perfect, very clean car. £2,600.
Telephone 07976 631638.

BMW Z4 2.0 SE, silver, black leather, AC, electric roof, heated seats, EM, EW, radio / CD, long MOT, 68k miles, £5,695 ono. 01384 393244.

CITROEN C1 2009, 10 months MOT, low mileage, excellent condition inside / out, £1,595.
07495 284545.

FIAT GRANDE PUNTO
2007, 37,300 miles, fsh, MoT March 2017, 1.2 Active, nice condition for age, couple of age related marks, very tidy.
£1,750 ono.
07572 554829.

HONDA CIVIC SE1 Vetec, SA Auto, 06 reg, 5-dr hatchback, petrol, 1799cc, silver, 45,000 miles, 2 owners, £3,950. 01299 488096.

MAZDA 3 SPORT 2005, 5dr, hatch back, red, 17ins alloys, sports pack, AC, radio/CD, MoT Feb 17, lovely car, £2,495. 01384 401209.

MINI COOPER silver, 2003, MoT till January, 61,000 miles, new clutch in April, full service, £2,350 ono. 07939 960855.

MERCEDES SL350

Automatic, (Convertible) 54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys,

Absolutely pristine.

£9,999.

07836 204450.

deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

NISSAN MICRA AGENTA CVT
2012, 10,600 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, long MOT, auto, metallic paint, central locking, stereo, CD, spots.
£5,250 ono.
07940 829278.

PEUGEOT 207CC CONVERTIBLE
2008, lovely condition, fsh, MoT August 12, 2017, 47k, electric windows, electric roof, rear park assist, CD, a/c, climate control, auto lights.
£3,100 ono.
Telephone 07958 400177.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.

Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights

Plus 6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL 01902 317878

NISSAN NOTE 1.5
NTEC, 2009, 5dr, hatchback, Red, 35,215 miles, FSH, Sat Nav, Bluetooth
Excellent condition.
£5,000 ono.
01384 37269.

RENAULT CLIO TOMTOM . New shape, 1149cc, 2008, 57,400 miles, black, Full MoT, 2-dr, very good condition. £1,999. 07979 40302.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI 2011, manual, 54,750k, silver, 2.0DTI, alarm, abs, pas, alloys, sat nav, MoT 130 Auto, metallic green, 11 months MoT, 83k, excellent condition. £8750 ono. 07733 77999.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 Exclusive convertible, 57 reg, petrol, leather, MoT Jan 2017, alloys, £1,750 ono. 01902 582321 / 07982 686913.

VW GOLF 1.9TDI, diesel, 04, black, 5 speed, a/c, fsh, with cambelt at 120k, long MOT, drives well. £1,695.

VW T5 Transporter, 2.5TDI, 05 kombi, 130 Auto, metallic green, 11 months MoT, 83k, excellent condition. £8750 ono. 07733 77999.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD FOCUS Silver, Y reg, 1.6, 12 months MoT, £500. 01902 650699.

FORD FIUSION 2, 1.4 TDCI, 2004, 11 months MoT, new cam belt, 128,000 miles, spares or repair. £500. 01562 632756.

FORD STREETKA Luxury 1.6, convertible, 2004, silver, Long MOT, new parts, good condition, £800 ono. 01384 258713.

PEUGEOT 307 2003, 55,000 miles, MoT March 2017, service history, £600 ono. 01384 830662.

PEUGEOT 106
2002, 42,000 miles, green, long MOT, March 2017 great drive ideal first car very reliable
£900 ono
07949 068759

RENAULT CLIO 1.2RT, full MoT, sunroof, CL, PAS, EV, CD, S reg. 07964 3596.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6, 3dr, 2007, average mileage, 6 months MoT, nice condition, £975 ono. 07977 040715.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6, petrol, 05 reg, 7 seater, loads of history and new parts, full MoT, 7.5k, £695 ono. 07874 07104.

RENAULT SCENIC 1600, 2005, 62,000 miles, 9 months MoT, very good condition, FSH, £995. 0793 8661621.

ROVER 25, 52 plate, 6 months MoT till Feb 2017. Used every day. 55,000 miles. New tyres. £350. 07394 89338 / 01922 409760.

ROVER 45 Silver, 04 reg, 46,000 miles, MoT April 2017, two owners, beautiful condition. £800 ono. 01902 894908.

SEAT IBIZA 1.2, 05 plate, red, CD, alloys, long MOT, very good condition, £850 ono. 07950 290826.

TOYOTA RAV4 Edge, 1997, petrol, MoT 3850. 01902 864045.

TOYOTA YARIS 5dr, 1.0, 53 plate, 58,000 miles, 12 months MoT, good condition, £350 ono. 07989 243426.

VAUXHALL OMEGA estate, 2001, 2.2 petrol, manual, 2 owners, 127k miles, FSH, lots of history, towbar, £750. 07815 793668.

VW GOLF 1.6 petrol, 03, low miles, FSH, MoT, excellent condition, £1,350. 07542 146673.

classic cars

MGA 1800, 1960, Part completed nut & bolt restoration, photos available, rhd, ill health forces sale. £13,000. 07934 538262.

MORRIS MINOR VAN / PICKUP
complete used chassis, needs some repairs. £425 ono. Morris Minor Van ex GPO parts, wood / mesh partition, £250, ladder rack £225, needs some repairs. 07986 318514. 07393 624283.

WANTED, CLASSIC CARS. Private cash buyer instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT VAN, high top, 2000, engine just serviced, all MoT / history documents, no welding underneath, touch up needed on side, £325. 07402 663973.

VW CADDY 1.9TDI 60 reg, s/h, alloy wheels, 87,000 miles, MoT July 2017, quick sale £4,000 ono. 07905 414269 or 01384 250953.

driving tuition

Homer's

10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 970050
01384 254854 / 0121 5540090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

A1 AUTOS WANTED
CARS, VANS, 4x4s, SCRAP, MOT FAILURES, ANY CONDITION £50-£10,000
WE BUY QUALITY USED CARS
07527 303 336
(24/7, any area) T&C Apply

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash. Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

WANTED FIAT PANDA 2004 upwards, must be in good condition. Call 01902 334541.

spares & accessories

tyres / wheels / exhausts

FOUR NEW TYRES 215/65R 16, with alloys, 5 stud, £100 or offers. 01902 826690.

RENAULT SET OF FOUR Alloy wheels, five stud, 205/55/R16, £120. 07903 676531.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury between Freeman Road and the south side of Kier Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 08/11/16, effective from 06/09/16. Traffic will be diverted via Manor Road, Freeman Road and vice-versa. Purpose – works to repair a collapsed sewer by Arney (on behalf of Severn Trent Water).
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath between Cherry Orchard and the boundary of Temple Meadow Primary School. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 07/10/16, effective from 06/09/16. Traffic will be diverted via Highgate Street, Heathfield Way, Station Road and vice-versa. Purpose – gas main replacement works and service connections by Balfour Beatty (on behalf of National Grid Gas).

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

10 Personals

personal

ACTIVE, LONELY WIDOW
69, wishes to meet lady or gentleman from Kingswinford, Wordsley or Brierley Hill area's for days out.

Box Number P20496, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

STRAIGHT LADY EARLY 60's

Is then anyone out there who would like to make new Friends in a 5 mile radius of Dudley.

With Christmas round the corner, also shopping, dancing and meals out.

Box Number P20502, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

WITHYMOOR COLTS
Charter Standard Community Status Club

All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.

New under 7's team are looking for players in all positions, (School year 2 in September) Please call **Brendan on 07577 613172**.

Under 13's West (School Year 8 in Sept) Are looking for experienced players.

Call **Clare on 07751 620876**.

general

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DS 3 wins hands down

By Sharon Walters

I wouldn't have to toss a coin in the air to decide between the DS 3 and its main rival the MINI. There's simply no hesitation for me. DS wins hands down. Whether in

It's curvy, seductive and very come hither. Unlike the pumped up MINI which while it's a great car doesn't set my heart aflutter. But then I am a Francophile and this car is so very, very chic and Gallic.

And don't mistake my 'looks matter' impression, the DS 3 offers the best package for my needs.

It has good ride and handling, low running costs and is very well put together inside. There's also plenty of kit as standard across the trims plus a range of economical and entertaining engines.

That standard spec includes alloy wheels, air-conditioning, an anti-theft alarm and a new 7-inch colour touchscreen.

Step up from the entry level Chic to Elegance and you also get 'Blade' 16-inch alloy wheels and LED front fog lights and inside, sports seats with stylish new 'Dinamica' cloth trim and automatic air-conditioning. There is also the latest-generation functionality includes rear parking sensors and the DS Connect Box emergency and assistance system. At the top Prestige adds eMyWay satellite navigation and front parking sensors, as well as Alcantara® upholstery, 17-inch alloy wheels and a lot more.

Ultra Prestige, Performance and Performance Black models form an Exclusive Collection.

Impressed

I tried out the Prestige THP 165 S&S 6-speed manual and while not the most friendly in terms of emissions as regards road fund licence, it impressed me more than the DS 5 I drove earlier in the summer.

My journey into work includes some lovely winding country roads and the DS 3 was a joy to travel in, especially at my usual commute time of around 6.30am.

It loved the corners and thanks to its fairly stiff suspension, always felt well positioned and secure on the road. And it also enjoyed dual carriageway and motorway cruising - giving the feeling of being in a much larger car.

One of the biggest contributors to the travel comfort lies with the large supportive seats. Get out after a couple of hundred miles and there was no unwinding of the spine!

The 1.6 litre THP 165 almost gives you a hot-hatch performance - it will get from 0-62 mph in 7.5 seconds and should you get on a race track will get up to 135 mph.

Inside the car is very boutique French.



It has good ride and handling, low running costs and is very well put together inside

There's nice detailing on the dashboard and the dials are pretty with a 'floating' hood sitting above them.

And the car is right up to date with a new touchscreen featuring Apple Car-Play and Android Auto tech. Plus an excellent hi-fi on top grade models which has a sub-woofer and central surround sound speaker.

Above all DS 3 is about individuality and on top of the standard trims there's a huge array of individual personalisation options

or extra spec packs - enabling you to make the car have your very own personality.

And looking to the future and what you'll get when you sell, it's a stylish and popular model that sells well both new and used. That means it is a car in demand, which results in depreciation being reduced.

All models get remote stereo controls, and Bluetooth, USB socket and DAB features on all but the basic Chic.

And there you have why this car is my favourite in the sector.



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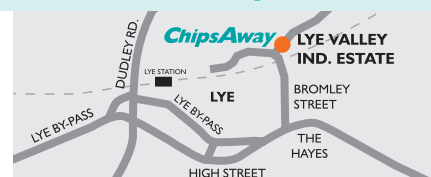
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Steve Brown and his Tamaki College team with visiting All Blacks including coach Osaiki Kupu and players Brodie Retallick and Julian Savea



Rugby coach Steve Brown

Coach Brown kicks off new life with future All Blacks

HE is responsible for introducing rugby to hundreds of children from the West Midlands.

Now Cannock's Steven Brown believes he is coaching youngsters who will one day star for the imperious All Blacks after starting a new life in New Zealand.

Rugby fanatic Brown – together with his wife of 33-years Julie – are well-known locally for the role they played in establishing the junior game in Cannock.

Back in 1983 Brown launched an under-14s side at Cannock RFU in a bid to show local youngsters they weren't just restricted to playing football.

In the years that followed, under-12s, under-10s and an under-19 colts team were quickly established with Brown then moving on to coach the Cannock first team.

A similar stint at Worcester Warriors followed with the coach helping train youngsters aged from eight to 13.

Culture

In 2012, having also built up a successful IT business in his professional life, Brown decided to move to the other side of the world to support Julie's dream of living in a different culture. But his love for junior rugby was never going to diminish with the coach now taking the reigns of junior teams at Tamaki College in Auckland.

In a country where rugby is the national support, Brown has continued to thrive and was recently visited by, and held a training session with, six All Blacks after his Tamaki College under-14s side won a competition to find the best newly-founded young team in New Zealand.

And the coach admits meeting Malakai Fekitoa, Owen

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"Having coached rugby around the world this will remain as one of my greatest moments."

Franks, Brodie Retallick, Julian Savea, Codie Taylor and Ofa Tu'ungafasi was an experience he and his pupils will never forget.

"Meeting the All Blacks was, of course, a great moment for me but I was just so proud of the boys because they were a credit to their families and to Tamaki College," Brown said. "The All Blacks gave us some great tips and provided a day that these youngsters and myself will never forget."

"Having coached rugby around the world this will remain as one of my greatest moments."

"Tamaki College is not known for being a rugby school, but it currently has an excellent first XV, under-15s and now an under-14s team. I know that I am coaching future All Blacks."

Brown's love for rugby began as a youngster when he watched his brother Bill star for the likes of Lichfield, Staffordshire and London Irish.

A tough tackling prop, he himself played for Lichfield as well as Staffordshire, Stafford and Walsall. But it was after hanging up his boots that he and his wife began looking to

encourage more youngsters to take up the sport. "To start the Cannock RUFC junior teams I had to prove to the local youngsters from the wider Cannock area that there was another sport other than football," he said.

"Cannock RUFC Juniors with an under-14 team then won the Staffordshire Championship in their first season."

"The following season we started the under-12s and the following season the under-10s."

"The mini junior section was established and to continue our feeder policy we organised a Chase Schools Cup. We then went on to take over the under-19s colts for Cannock."

"Cannock junior teams then went on to beat the best Midlands teams such as Moseley, Walsall, Bromsgrove, Stafford and Lichfield."

Fortunate

After achieving so much success in junior rugby, Brown revealed the pair opted to move the other side of the world to fulfil Julie's dream of living in New Zealand.

"We were fortunate that I had done everything I had wanted to do in business," he said.

"Julie had always wanted to live in New Zealand and she had supported me throughout life and it was my turn to support her."

Now with expert knowledge of rugby on both sides of the hemisphere, Brown believes that mix is helping the pupils he is currently teaching.

"I have learned so much from being in New Zealand."

"The boys here are so dedicated and fit and I have still not worn any of them down in training."

"You tell them to jump and they say how high. If they believe in you they will run through fire."



Brown was instrumental in founding youth rugby in Cannock



Brown puts aspiring players through their paces in Cannock

Sport

Rugby coach converts to new life with future All Blacks prospects

Page 35



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Clarke feels his best is yet to come

UNDEFEATED super middleweight Lennox Clarke, may have already won the biggest fight of his career. The 25-year old boasts an impressive five knockouts from his 12 professional bouts to date, including a first round stoppage over Dean Gillen just six weeks ago.

However, Clarke thinks the best is yet to come having finally shaken off a confidence-sapping inferiority complex. With no amateur experience to his name, the powerful pugilist admits his rapid introduction to the professional ranks at times left him doubting his own ability. But after a succession of impressive victories, coupled with news that he is soon to become a father, the Halesowen fighter has a new found focus and reason to succeed in the sport.

"When I found out it was the first thing I thought about," Clarke admitted. "I want to be in the big fights and set up my future – for me and my family now."

"I feel like I've passed my apprenticeship and I want to be let off the lead. I've got the potential to and mentally I'm ticking that box as well now."

"Before I used to doubt myself heading into fights but now I know I'm going in there knowing I can beat anyone on my day. I think people will start to see the best of me now I have that belief. I'm more switched on in every aspect of being a fighter, physically and mentally."

Clarke headlines Hatton Promotions and Black Country Boxing's 'On The Rise' event on Friday, September 2.

Highly-rated Nantwich heavyweight, Nathan Gorman, and fellow Ricky Hatton trained fighter, Market Harborough welterweight Reuben Arrowsmith are both in action alongside Swadlincote super middleweight, Zach Parker, Wolverhampton Bantamweight Kyle Williams, and Tewksbury middleweight, Adam 'Hurricane' Harper.

Anderson wonder strike secures Yeltz first win of season

Nantwich Town 1 Halesowen Town 2
HALESOWEN Town secured their first win of the season courtesy of a wonder strike by Kaiman Anderson in the second half.

It was always going to be tough for John Hill's men following a 5-0 home defeat to Blyth Spartans on Saturday – a match in which Danny Bragoli was dismissed for two bookings.

Joe Colley made his debut on Tuesday night after signing from Dudley Town and provided a cross on six minutes which just flew over Malcolm Melvin's head.

It was Melvin who gave the Yeltz the lead on 56 minutes when his deflected shot fooled the Nantwich keeper and found its way into the net.

The home side equalised on 70 when Theo Stair was tripped in the box and Sean Cooke converted the penalty.

Four minutes later, Anderson cut in from the sideline and unleashed a thundering shot into the net.

Halesowen goalkeeper Daniel Platt was required to make a number of good saves at the end to keep his team ahead.

Hales ready for top of the table clash

HALESOWEN Cricket Club climbed up to second in the table with a crushing win over Oswestry on Saturday.

Richard Brooker's side continued their fine form to comfortably triumph in a rain-affected game and take a huge step towards promotion in the Birmingham and District League Division Two.

They will now head into a top of the table encounter with league leaders Shifnal at Seth Somers Park this Saturday (noon) high on confidence.

Kester Moseley (45) and Hassan Quami (33)

Cricket

helped them post an adjusted total of 159 in 35 overs.

Eddie Rhodes then wreaked havoc with the ball, taking 5-26 as they skittled Oswestry out for only 76.

Brooker said: "It was difficult to get any rhythm to our innings with the constant weather interruptions. Again our bowling unit was superb and never let Oswestry into the game."

The 2nd XI and 3rd XI suffered disappoint-

ments, being beaten by Walmley and Five Ways Old Edwardians respectively, whilst the 4th XI saw their game with Himbleton abandoned without a ball bowled.

The Under 15s were crowned County T20 Champions. Hassan Akram took four wickets and Talha Ikhtlaq struck a splendid 32 not out in a four-wicket win over reigning National Champions Barnt Green to lift the trophy.

The Sunday 1st XI prevailed by four wickets against Worcester CC to book a New Road showdown with Hagley in the Worcestershire Canterbury Cup Final.

Cycle ace has clinched road race series

HALESOWEN Cycling Club academy ace Jack Stanton-Warren has clinched overall victory in the West Midlands Road Race series.

Stanton-Warren secured the win by default following the cancellation of the final event.

That meant his victory in the Climb-On bikes event and his second-placed finish in the Stourbridge Two-Day Stourbridge Two-Day race were enough to leave him top of the standings.

In the team event, the Halesowen academy outfit, sponsored this season by Wenlock Spring, have done enough collectively to finish runners-up to Rhino Racing team.

Stanton-Warren and team-mate Charles Walker continued their fine showings in National B standard events – local races open to both amateurs and professional. They raced to ninth and 18th places respectively in the Worcester Trophy 90-miler near Malvern.

Stanton-Warren was part of an escape of 14 riders which fled the pack on the second of eight laps of an 11-mile circuit, and when the break was reinforced by a small group –including professionals George Atkins and Tristan Robbins – the pattern of the race was set.

The bunch split into several groups on the penultimate lap, with the eventual winner Will Fox (of PedalHeaven), making his escape.

Stanton-Warren narrowly missed the split but had the strength to escape Atkins and Robbins to secure a place in the top ten. Walker was caught in the chasing pack and finished 18th.

Fen Tigers tore Heathens to shreds

CRADLEY slumped to their heaviest defeat in five years as they were thrashed 60-29 at Mildenhall on Sunday.

Heathens travelled to West Row without influential Ashley Morris due to a fixture clash with Premier League side Peterborough. They had no answer to the Fen Tigers as they were condemned to their worst result since a 64-27 hammering at Stoke in 2011.

Six days after losing their proud unbeaten home record at the hands of local rivals Birmingham, Will Pottinger's side saw their National League play-off hopes dealt another blow. Only skipper Max Clegg offered real resistance, winning his opening three rides on his way to 11 points. Ellis Perks, guesting for Morris, delivered the ride of the night with a brave move to blast from last to first in heat nine. But Heathens ran 13 last places on a nightmare afternoon.

★★★

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FITNESS WORK REAPS REWARD

Old Halesonians 65 Bournville 17

THE weather held out as Old Halesonians hosted a family day at the Grove with OH Thirds playing the Colts at midday, a great start to the pre-season.

The crowd gathered early for a really exciting game with the ever developing OH Colts team beating their seniors in a close game.

The first team took to the field in only their second trial match, having taken on Newbold two weeks ago in a worthwhile run out, beating the visitors by six tries to two.

But this was to be a more challenging test as Bournville beat Nuneaton, a league above, in a trial game the previous week.

Early exchanges saw Hales dominant with tries from Sam Musiyarira, Martin Hooker and Andy Holloway in the centre. Hales pack were rampant with player/coach Ben Hughes, his second row partner Rich Sawyer, Max Macfarlane and back row partners Adam Clayton and Loz Breese totally overshadowing the visitors.

Centres Holloway and Andy Robinson regularly breached the Bournville defence with support from wing Joe Oxford and the revitalised Chris Hooper at full back orchestrating play. The first 40 minutes saw Bournville try to mount a defence but too many mistakes prevented them from troubling the home side.

The second half saw changes for both sides. From the kick off Bournville failed to secure the ball which Hales flanker Macfarlane collected and sprinted unopposed to the line. Hales dominated with two more tries from winger Musiyarira.

In the next play Breese, supported by Luke Smith, took an over arm pass inside to sprint unopposed for the line. Bournville fought back and scored twice but the home side were seeing the benefit of pre-season fitness training.

Hughes found himself in support of the backs, taking a loop pass to sprint 40m to score. More pressure by Hales saw Sawyer collect outside the visitors' 22. He set off to beat the defence for an excellent try.

Head coach Hughes and director of rugby Gary Cox said it was a useful game to try out a number of players.

Old Hales first team meet Lichfield at home for their first league game on September 3, 3pm.

Sue blazes trail to victory again



Two-time champion Susan Knight, of Halesowen, competing with Charlie Boy at Stoneleigh Park

RIDER Susan Knight, of Halesowen, has become the 2016 Solutions Saddles Prelim Horse Champion at the SEIB Trailblazers Championships at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire.

The championships are the culmination of the hard work put in by amateur riders who have qualified through two rounds of competition throughout the UK.

Sue rode her Welsh Section D Newydd Charlie Boy to the victory in the championship division before claiming the reserve champion title in the Solutions Saddles Novice division.

She has owned the 12-year-old since he was 16-months-old. Together, the pair do 'a bit of everything', contesting dressage, arena event-

ing, and, most recently, a two-day event.

"He's a very lovely, sweet boy – he's a few years old," says Sue, who had an accident a few years ago, and credits Charlie with helping her through it.

The dynamic duo is supported at shows by her friend Bev Husband, instructor Nicky Fox, and her yard friends, who she describes as 'one big family'.

This was Sue's second visit to Trailblazers with Charlie; last year, the pair were also victorious.

"I love the atmosphere and what Trailblazers do," she explains. "Everyone works really hard."

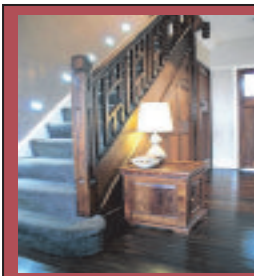
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GFV / Optional Final Payment	£5,290.00

Duration of agreement

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£18,750.53

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15'15 Astra 1.6 Excite, Black, 12511mls.....	£10495	16'16 Corsa 1.4 SE Ecoflex 5dr, Blue, 6330mls.....	£10495	62'13 Zafira Design 1.7 Cdti Design, Grey, 29110mls.....	£7999
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Representative Finance example*

On the Road Price	£11,075.00
Cash Deposit	£1.00
Part Exchange Allowance [^]	£2,000.00
Total Deposit	£2,001.00
Amount Financed	£9,074.00
Period	43 months
First Instalment	£119.40
41 Monthly Instalments	£119.60
Final Instalment/Guaranteed Future Value	£4,051.00
Total Amount Payable	£11,075.00
APR Representative	0%

[^]Example based on Part-Exchange vehicle being valued at £2,000.



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On the Road Price	£14,470.00
Cash Deposit	£1.00
Part Exchange Allowance [^]	£2,000.00
Total Deposit	£2,001.00
Amount Financed	£12,469.00
Period	49 months
Option to Purchase Fee	£10.00
48 Monthly Instalments	£164.93
Final Instalment/Guaranteed Future Value	£5,616.00
Total Amount Payable	£15,533.64
APR Representative	2.9%

[^]Example based on Part-Exchange vehicle being valued at £2,000.

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